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The annual Berbee Derby 10K/5K started 10 years ago when Jim Berbee decided he liked the idea of a "Turkey Trot" and wanted it to take place near his company's headquarters. It will be held Thanksgiving Day morning in Fitchburg.

Photo courtesy
Stephen Bach
Photography

Running for a cause

Berbee Derby set for 11th annual 10K/5K races Nov. 27 in Fitchburg

SETH JOVAAG
Star correspondent

The race to stay current with new technology can be financially daunting for schools and non-profits with tight budgets.

But for the past decade, a local race of a different sort has made it easier to keep up.

The Berbee Derby, a Thanksgiving Day footrace founded by local businessman Jim Berbee in 2004, has raised roughly \$750,000 to help area school districts and organizations buy the new laptops, software or

other gadgets they might not otherwise be able to afford.

"The cause is fantastic," said Jessica Benson, co-director of the 11th annual race on Nov. 27, which includes a 10-kilometer run and 5-kilometer run/walk. "I've run other fun runs (like this), but to stand by a race and say '100 percent of the proceeds go straight to this foundation for this cause,' that is pretty cool."

The first Derby in 2004 drew 900 competitors but grew steadily, topping 8,000 runners in 2012, Benson said. This year,

registration will be capped at 8,000 contestants to keep it manageable, and there's no more day-of-race registration.

The cost is \$35 per participant. All proceeds go to the Technology Education Foundation that was created by Berbee to disburse grant money.

Last year alone, the foundation doled out 14 grants totaling nearly \$75,000. Much of the money went to schools, though thousands of dollars went to improve science education at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center and Madison Children's

Museum, and to a job-training program at the Urban League of Greater Madison. A full list of past recipients is on the foundation's website.

Jim Berbee, a Madison native, sold his Fitchburg company in 2006 to Illinois-based CDW Corp. But CDW remains a major sponsor, and the race's start and finish lines on East Cheryl Parkway are still near CDW's Fitchburg location.

The race draws competitors from around Wisconsin

Turn to **Derby**/Page 25

If you go

What: 11th Berbee Derby, 10K run and 5K run/walk

When: Thursday, Nov. 27

Where: Race starts and finishes near E. Cheryl Parkway and Research Park Drive

Why: Fundraiser to purchase technology for local schools and non-profits

How much: \$35

More info: Details about registration, parking, the course and more at berbeederby.com

After 25 years, bright prospects for Saris

JEFF BUCHANAN
Star correspondent

If you've taken an evening bike ride on the Badger State Trail in recent weeks, you might have noticed new solar-powered LED lights.

Those lights are one of the ways Saris Cycling Group is helping to improve the Fitchburg community while keeping an eye on innovation.

The 25-year-old company started as a bike rack manufacturer – as did its predecessor, Graber – and is still best known for its ubiquitous bike racks that go over the trunks of cars. It has since branched out into such technological ventures as stationary bikes for training indoors and electronic devices that measure power output.

The low-maintenance Cycle Guide Lights are one of its newest products, and it's using the bike path, in a partnership with the City of Fitchburg, as a pilot site.

Company spokesperson Lindsay Suttin said in an email that Saris provided the lights at no cost to the city, which owns and maintains the paths.

"We are looking to gather user feedback on what impact the lights have on the safety and security on the paths," she said.

Saris, which has 180 employees, is located off Verona Road in an old farmhouse that used to be a chicken hatchery. Its products are sold all over the globe and it has positioned itself for further success and growth. But challenges lie ahead, company

Turn to **Saris**/Page 26 Angelina Montes tests the electronic resistance of a trainer.



Photo by Samantha Christian



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Photo by Scott Girard

A city for trees

Belmar Hills Park got some extra vegetation Sunday, Nov. 2, as the Dane County Bar Association, Boys and Girls Club, Urban Tree Alliance and the City of Fitchburg came together to plant 20 trees there. The State Bar Association provided a grant for the event, and beyond just the planting, the day included a tree-climbing demonstration from national tree-climbing champion Colin Bugg and the unveiling of new wooden benches from Baraboo Woodworks. Above, City of Fitchburg Parks Department director Scott Endl, left, helps Olivia, 6, water the mulch around a newly planted tree.

Out of This World

Fitchburg researchers send plants to space

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

Not many plant biologists get to work with NASA. Even fewer get to do so a second time.

Fitchburg resident Simon Gilroy, who runs a lab at UW-Madison, was able to do just that.

“Access to space is very rare. I mean, we were fantastically lucky,” Gilroy said about the lab’s work with NASA on a recent experiment to research how weightlessness affects plant biology.

Gilroy and his partner Sarah Swanson, who is an assistant scientist in the lab, spent weeks at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida setting up their experiment over the past few months, and it all culminated Nov. 6 when their samples returned to the UW campus for testing.

“It was pretty cool (when the sample got delivered),” Swanson said. “Well, it was literally cool because it was on ice, but figuratively cool too.”

Those samples will end up becoming millions of pieces of data as Gilroy, Swanson and their labmates begin to dissect what happened while their plants were in space.

The ultimate question they asked for the experiments was what happens when a plant reacts as if it has weight when in reality it does not.

“Biology doesn’t weigh anything in space ... and that sort of changes how biology works,” Gilroy explained. “Your body loses muscle mass in space because you don’t have to fight against the force of gravity. Plants don’t make themselves as strong as they were on earth because same deal.”

That was actually one of two experiments the pair had on the rocket that launched Sept. 21 to head to the International Space Station, the second time they have sent an experiment into space.

They previously worked with NASA in 2013 and will get to do so once again in 2016, Gilroy said.

Weightlessness

The scientists hoped to answer the question of what a plant does when it “knows” it is weightless versus when it is weightless in reality but reacts as if it has weight.

“Plants don’t grow quite the same in space as they do on earth; we know that,”



Photo submitted

Fitchburg residents and UW-Madison researchers Sarah Swanson, left, and Simon Gilroy, pose for a photo while at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Gilroy said. “We think that one of the big things is they don’t weigh anything.”

“Can we understand what it means for a plant to know that it weighs something?”

Gilroy said that could be key to long-term space travel, given the important functions plants perform on earth.

“If people are going to spend a long time in space, actually feeding yourself becomes a big deal, purifying the atmosphere becomes a big deal, and that’s how it works on earth,” he said. “Plants feed people.”

To get their answer, they took one set of plants and turned the gene that recognizes weight on and another set and turned it off. That difference, plus a control group with the same genes on and off left at the Kennedy Space Center during the experiment, will help them see how plants reacted differently as they look at the data.

Sharing the knowledge

In addition to their personal experiment, the pair had a chance to pioneer a new program aimed at spreading the small amount of data that comes from space.

“The idea is, ‘Maybe if we put up experiments or samples that lots of people are interested in, we bring them back down and then as soon as you possibly can release all of the data related to that experiment to everyone,’” Gilroy explained. “You could sit at home in Fitchburg, go on the web, and you could access all of the data that came from that experiment and you could analyze it to try and work out what’s gone on.”

That’s the hope for NASA, at least, as it begins its “Gene Lab” program aimed at spreading the “precious” data that comes from the limited number of

space experiments, Gilroy said.

For its first try, they sent four different breeds of the same Mouse-Eared Cress plant up to see how they reacted while in space. Once they’ve gathered the data, it will be put online for anyone interested to examine.

“One individual researcher can’t extract all of the insight from an experiment because everyone thinks about it in different ways and has different ways of analyzing it,” Gilroy said.

A big firework

The launch itself was certainly a defining moment for both.

“It’s like the biggest firework you’ve ever seen,” Swanson said. “Your vision is just flooded with this light.”

It was the culmination of a long process of preparation, which included multiple practice runs of their experiment to ensure everything would go smoothly in space and a delay in the launch, initially planned for early September.

“These things are always delayed,” said Swanson, who does the “detail” work such as flight planning. “It’s really hard to plan your life.”

But it all worked out with a “crystal clear, beautiful” day, as Gilroy described it.

That was just part of what has been an amazing few years for the lab, with more left to come as they analyze the data and prepare for another experiment in 2016.

“If you told us a few years ago we were going to be doing this, we would’ve been like, ‘You’re crazy,’” he said. “Because we’re plant biologists. But, the questions that we’re interested in turn out to be the kind of questions (important) for ... how biology works in space.”

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City of Fitchburg

Greenfield Park neighbors reject Fitchburg Fields

City looks for alternative location

SAMANTHA CHRISTIAN
Unified Newspaper Group

A month ago, it looked like Fitchburg Field’s struggle to find a new home was almost over, but the search continues.

With input from the City of Fitchburg, Fitchburg Fields had been eyeing a portion of a parcel of land attached to Greenfield Park to use as a community garden for its food-growing operation come springtime.

However, based on some negative response from the neighborhood – including a petition with just over 100 signees – city staff collectively agreed the proposal will no longer be considered for approval. It would have been the first time a community garden was located within a City of Fitchburg park.

Amanda Hall, executive director of Fitchburg Fields, said she would have been excited to be a part of Greenfield Park “to enhance the neighborhood (and) as a source of civic pride.”

Fitchburg Fields, which grows food for local food pantries, will continue to receive help finding a new spot from Wade Thompson, resource/project planner with the planning and zoning department, and Scott Endl, director of the parks, recreation and forestry department.

The problem is, winter is coming and spring planting season will be just around the corner. Hall said that in order for the nonprofit organization to remain relevant and feasible for those it serves in Dane County, it ideally wants to have a location set soon to aid in planning purposes, especially when it comes to fundraising efforts and grant

The petition

The petition reads: “This is a petition against the choice made by the Parks and Planning Commission on October 2, 2014 to locate a Fitchburg Fields garden at Greenfield Park. We, the residents of the Greenfield Park neighborhood, do not support the garden being located in our Greenfield neighborhood park. We would like our park area to remain as it is. While we support the efforts of the Fitchburg Fields group to supply food to local food pantries, we feel the garden should be located at a more appropriate location.”

money.

“In any project there are going to be setbacks,” she told the Fitchburg Star this week. “But life goes on.”

Game-changing petition

The Park Commission had planned to take action on the proposal Oct. 2, but its members decided more conversations with neighbors were needed first.

Another vote was scheduled for the Dec. 4 meeting, and it would have been contingent on an agreement among Fitchburg Fields, Greenfield Park neighbors and city staff, called a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

However, before the MOU was even to the draft stage, the petition was presented during a second neighborhood meeting on Oct. 23.

Together, a few neighbors, including Darrell and Arlene Ace and Mike and Terri Oasen, wrote and helped circulate the petition to those living in the Greenfield Park subdivision.

“They were in favor of what Fitchburg Fields was trying to do, they just felt that this wasn’t a good location for it,” Endl explained, saying they even promised to donate to the nonprofit once it finds a home.

After Endl welcomed the

approximately 20 people to the meeting, Thompson and Hall once again explained the proposal. The meeting also included individual and small-group exercises to identify the main issues of having the community garden located at Greenfield Park as well as potential solutions.

But the tone of the meeting changed after one of the attendees presented the petition.

“I think it’s important to note there were people at the meeting as well (as those who emailed) that did support the garden or that wanted it at Greenfield (Park),” Thompson told the Star, adding that a woman present at the meeting decided to remove her name from the petition. “But what I think it essentially boiled down to was probably a more vocal, organized, anti-garden voice is kind of what we heard, and the policy makers respected that.”

The meeting still moved forward as planned, but afterward, city staff discussed whether the proposal at Greenfield Park was still feasible or if they should focus on finding a new location, Endl explained. The group also got feedback from Tom Darcy, Park Commission chair, and policy makers such as Mayor Shawn Pfaff.

“It was collaboratively decided that (the community garden at Greenfield Park) wasn’t meant to be,” Endl said.

Seeking alternatives

One of the goals of the parks department, as park stewards, is to retain community gardens in Fitchburg and establish additional areas for new community gardens.

The Park Commission had approved and Common Council had adopted the Comprehensive Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan back in 2010 with those goals in mind.

“As advocates for the park system, we’re trying to create as many diverse uses of the park system, which in turn will bring and provide services to diverse interests within the community,” Endl said.

Thompson said that from a land use perspective, the planning department is also supportive of promoting small-scale agriculture and community gardens.

“The one takeaway I have is that I think, regardless of the geographical features that made Greenfield (Park) attractive, the feature that really stopped us was the lack of ‘neighborhood interest’ or support in the idea of a garden,” he said.

Endl said it was still a discussion worth having.

“It began to educate the community on what we’re working on and will continue to work on,” he said.

The park and planning department staff is exploring options for Fitchburg Fields, but none have come to fruition. They are looking for areas where they think those who live close by would want to be part of a community garden and even neighborhood plots.

“I feel confident that we will have a spot next year,” Hall said.

Arnold plans run for mayor

10-year alder wants to focus on development, employee relations

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

After years of being an often-dissenting voice on the City of Fitchburg Common Council, Ald. Steve Arnold (D-4) announced his candidacy for mayor Monday.

The 10-year alder, who often focuses on environmental issues and has

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Arnold

he is ready to move up in the city government hierarchy and bring his vision of Fitchburg to reality.

“I do have a vision for what Fitchburg can be and I would like to explain that to the voters and then lead Fitchburg toward the fulfillment of that vision,” Arnold said.

That vision includes changes to how the city looks at development, transportation, borrowing and staff relations. Arnold said his time on the council, including reading the agendas and minutes of every commission and committee, has made him a “generalist” able to discuss a variety of issues.

“To have experienced 10 years of history with all of these issues I think is a hugely important background,” he said. “I know why things are in the

comprehensive plan the way they are. I know what the legislative intent was with some of these issues that have come up in the past.”

The 20-year Fitchburg resident, who turns 66 in April, said he first considered running during the last mayoral election in 2011 but did not feel he was ready to explain his views to voters well enough.

He said one top priority if elected would be changing how city staff is managed, after the council adopted a “pay-for-performance” model in the upcoming budget.

“There are very few objective measures of ‘performance’ that are not almost exclusively ruled by things outside the employee’s control,” he said, citing the economy as a factor in building permits. “That’s not the way you get top performance, that’s not how you have a top department, that’s not how you have the terrific city staff that we have today.”

In addition, he believes the development around the city is outpacing what its infrastructure, especially roads, can handle. He pointed to the 4.5 miles of roadwork done this year as an amount that would be insufficient when the more recently built roads require work at the same time in the future.

“A lot of our roads are young, but when we get toward the end of the cycle where all these other roads start to get 25 years old we’ll be doing triple of that to get caught up,” he said. “The way you avoid being killed ... is to be very cautious about accepting new roads.”

Candidates can circulate nomination papers beginning Dec. 1, and the spring election will be Tuesday, April 7.



Photo by Scott Girard

Apartment fire

An Oct. 25 fire at 4395 Crescent Road caused an estimated \$500,000 of property damage, according to a news release from the Fitchburg Fire Department.

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City of Fitchburg

Orchard Pointe ag plan denied

MARK IGNATOWSKI

Unified Newspaper Group

A plan to provide some tax relief for the Orchard Pointe developer was denied in October amid concerns about how the change in use might affect property values.

Orchard Pointe Development Corporation had sought to use about 24 acres of undeveloped land for agricultural use while the parcels are being marketed. The original use permit identifies the properties as urban development land, city planner Tom Hovel told the City of Fitchburg Plan Commission at its Sept. 16 meeting. Changing the land use could lower the property value by about \$7 million, and planting certain crops could cause erosion, city staff said.

The Plan Commission voted Oct. 21 to deny the permit based on city staff recommendations. Commissioners – including Ed Kinney – said they had concerns about the drop in value and the effect it would have on the tax-increment financing district it's located in, TID 6.

"The cost of the infrastructure is on the taxpayers," Kinney said. "I would feel different if this was not a TID."

Plan Commission chair Ald. Carol Poole said she struggled with the issue because it could help the business, but said the TID was the biggest issue.

"To take a \$7 million hit on the TID puts that TID way out," Poole said.

Revaluing that land could change the value of the TID, which is due to close within the next year or two. The district was extended last year to pay for Spoke and Sprocket Drives, Hovel said. If changed to agricultural use, the land would likely be worth between \$4,583 and \$6,272.

Some commissioners also had concerns about having agricultural equipment on the land, as well how the agricultural use is not being part of the development plan for the area.

In a report to the commission, Hovel said agricultural uses on the land could leave the area open to erosion.

"The sites have very little, if any, topsoil, which means that crop growth will likely be poor, and areas of poor crop growth are more susceptible to erosion," the report read.

Significant rain events could clog drain basins and cause additional water and sediment to flow into the Jamestown Basin.

Community voices

Have your pumpkin pie and eat it, too

During the holidays, I have so much fun spending my spare time in the kitchen baking all kinds of cookies and holiday desserts.

But then I go to holiday events or gatherings and once the word gets out that I'm a dietitian, I automatically feel like "Food Police" is stamped on my forehead for everybody to see. Things get awkward.

The guests become self-conscious about what they're choosing to eat, which usually comes out in the form of either only eating from the veggie tray for the night or feeling like they need to apologize for the mass quantities of food they're piling onto their plate. And whatever I choose to put on my plate leads to talk, too.

And, of course, there's always the question, "Does being a dietitian ruin your enjoyment of food?"

Believe it or not, I do enjoy the food I eat, and having a positive relationship with food only helps me enjoy my food that much more. I don't feel guilty for having a piece of pie, because I know I'm

being mindful about eating it – that is, only eating until I'm satisfied.

Completely depriving yourself of foods you love is never a good idea, since you'll end up wanting it that much more in the end anyway.

The holidays should be a fun time of the year. But the temptations can be stressful.

We've got the fun of Halloween candy tempting us at every turn, and then there are all the holiday parties and family gatherings, all of which inevitably have decadent treats and rich foods lined up in long lines on tables and counters.

How's a person to eat healthy and keep from loosening the belt as the season progresses?

Part of the fun should be that food that has memories or nostalgia attached to it, but there still needs to be a balance.

Even though I don't restrict myself to the veggie tray at holiday parties, I also know to keep things in check throughout the season. Here are some simple ways for you to have your pumpkin pie and eat it, too, this holiday season:

Don't skip meals or snacks

While this may sound like a good idea in theory in order to "save" calories for the large meal, this can lead

you to overeat later (usually on more high-fat and – sugar foods) and make it harder to manage blood sugars, and it can also slow down your metabolism throughout the day.

Scope out the choices.

Before delving into the mass amounts of food at the dinner table, take a look around at everything first. What are your "must have" foods? Balance your plate with these favorite items and vegetables while foregoing the other options you were less inclined to. To more fully enjoy your dessert, pass on second helpings.

Enjoy your favorite dessert

Pick out your favorite and leave the other desserts for others to enjoy. Focus on the one food you know you'll savor the most. Choose a smaller portion size, eliminate all other distractions that would keep you from enjoying the dessert, leave your guilt at the door and use all your senses when eating each bite. Although it's tempting to have another piece, just remember the second piece won't taste nearly as good as what that very first bite did.

Plan a walk or game

Try taking a family walk or playing an active game after dinner. If you know ahead of time you'll be

doing something active and not sitting on the couch watching football, you're less likely to overeat. Not only that, it'll give you a break from being surrounded by food and will help in lowering your blood sugar levels.

Avoid the snack table

After the meal, find an area away from the table of snacks to prevent any temptation. Think about how hungry you are before going to see what the snack table has to offer. If you're not physically hungry, choose water instead so you have something to sip on.

The important thing to remember this holiday season is to be mindful of your food choices and to enjoy the tastes and smells of the special foods you get once a year, but to do so in moderation.

If you do happen to overeat on a holiday, don't beat yourself up about it. The next day is a new day and is a chance to try again. The holidays can be stressful enough; let's not add our food choices to the stress of it all.

Kara Hoerr, MS, RD, CD, is the registered dietitian at the Fitchburg Hy-Vee. This information is not intended as medical advice. Please consult a medical professional for individual advice.



Hoerr



Krause

Legislative Opinion

Helping communities is a team effort

I'm more of a teacher than a salesperson, but am finding that politics is largely a sales job, which restrains me in many ways. So I need to teach what I've learned.

During my first city council campaign, people would ask, "Which side are you on?" Being truly non-partisan, I generally said, "The side that wants to talk to one another."

When they'd say, "No, really..." my response would be that the further right the state goes, the further left I get pushed. That, of course, was happening at the same time our new governor was creating a bit of a fuss in and around the Capitol.

Since that first year, I've been on an incredible learning curve, first starting to

learn how the city is run and then, the next year, beginning to learn the county. I wasn't born to politics, nor did I study it. I learned it by interacting with residents, first from my immediate area, then expanding out, circulating among many different groups, inside and outside government.

While I was working near Allied Drive, I got involved in the community I'd driven through daily. There, I found caring residents struggling to improve their community.

I participated in the Allied Area Task Force and other groups in the area, including both neighborhood associations covering the area. I helped with the drafting of a safety and security document, discussions on the development of land owned by the Madison CDA, and wrote a USDA grant titled "Allied Neighborhood Pride Project." All huge learning tools.

I was also active in environmental and social

action groups, many of which I can't devote the same amount of time to nowadays. Instead, I've become concerned about issues more directly related to people, enough to want to devote myself full-time to it.

Showing my level of interest, counting my calendar for 2014, I've attended 460 meetings/events: 113 for the county, plus a 4-day NACo convention; 138 for Fitchburg; 90 Verona Road meetings; and 139 other community meetings/events. Less than 140 of that total were "official." Others were voluntary.

Many involve concerns about large at-risk populations in the older areas of Fitchburg: diversity and class issues, homelessness and housing, aging, food deserts, children and family issues, education and health care, community policing and public safety, and recreation are all topics of interest for community study.

In general, I'm learning

how city and county government can better serve our communities.

I've pointed out the high cost of ignoring poverty numerous times, so a big focus is on making life better for all while reducing the cost for everyone. The most productive would be attracting living wage jobs to Fitchburg, improving affordable housing and helping residents help us control criminal elements.

We need to help communities be the best they can be, by finding and supporting leaders in emerging neighborhoods.

It's a huge task; we need residents, staff, and elected officials paying attention to these issues, so poverty and crime doesn't get worse before it starts to improve. Together we can do it.

Dorothy Krause represents part of Fitchburg (District 27) on the Dane County Board of Supervisors and District 1 on the Fitchburg Common Council.

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City of Fitchburg

Council adds 3 public safety positions

Full-time fire chief, patrol officer will start next summer

MARK IGNATOWSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

The city will add four new public safety positions into the 2015 budget.

Only one was in the mayor’s preliminary budget that was presented last month, and the result of those additions and the other three amendments the Common Council passed after the public hearing Tuesday, Nov. 11 is an increase in the mill rate of 1.4 percent to \$7.95 per \$1,000 in assessed value. An average home in the City of Fitchburg would see an increase of \$29 in its city property tax bill.

Other amendments passed Nov. 11 added funding for an Anton Drive redevelopment study, additional funds for repairs on County Highway MM, a new fee for storage of police evidence and trimming auditing expenses. The council rejected several other amendments, including a request to add two more firefighters and to accelerate plans for a new northeast fire station.

The public safety positions added were a full-time fire chief, a Fitch-Rona EMS captain and a police patrol officer, but the fire chief and

Mill rate	
Tax year	Mill rate*
2014	\$7.95
2013	\$7.84
2012	\$7.56
2011	\$7.58
2010	\$7.13
2019	\$5.96
2008	\$5.84
2007	\$5.68
2006	\$5.61
* per \$1,000 assessed value	

patrol officer won’t start later next year, meaning the full funding will likely have a greater impact on the 2016 budget. The city will also add a full-time sergeant for police department and provide a paid-on-call firefighter pay increase.

The added positions keep the city under the state’s expenditure restraint limit of 4.3 percent. Expenditure restraint is a statewide program that rewards municipalities for keeping budget increases to a modest level.

The city’s levy will be about \$20.6 million for next year.

Another key elements of the city’s budget is up a 2.5 percent increase for all staff, though for non-union employees that will be a 1 percent increase plus up to 1.5 percent more based on performance.

Public safety

The funding for public safety staff had varying degrees of support.

The plan to add a full-time fire chief – as recommended by a staffing study earlier this year – was approved on an 8-0 vote. Ald. Steve Arnold’s original amendment had asked to have the position fully funded next year, but other alders noted that the \$100,000 would have caused the city to go over the threshold of expenditure restraint and therefore lose out on nearly half a million dollars in the 2016 budget.

Ald. Richard Bloomquist’s amendment to Arnold’s request set the position to start in September next year, cutting the cost to around \$37,000.

A Fitch-Rona EMS captain position was also included by unanimous vote. The City of Fitchburg will pay \$19,062 for the additional position, with the rest of the cost covered by the city and town of Verona.

Bloomquist’s proposal to add a patrol officer to the police department, in addition to the sergeant already included in Pfaff’s proposal, was approved on a 6-2 vote. Alds. Jason Gonzalez and Dan Carpenter voting against the amendment. Gonzalez said the county needed to add more district attorneys to process cases.

Other amendments

The council voted to add roughly \$115,000 to its capital budget on a planning study for the Anton Drive area, west of Verona Road.

The study will look at redevelopment options for the area as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation continues a major reconstruction project along Verona Road. Ald. Carol Poole said the Anton Drive study would be paid for with a mixture of borrowed funds, money from a developer and a possibly a grant. The amendment also put another \$50,000 toward the study into the five-year capital improvement plan for 2016.

Alders also agreed on a 5-3 vote to borrow an additional \$20,000 to repair part of the road along County Hwy. MM near the intersection of Hwy. 14. The project is split with the county and will cost a total of \$50,000 for the city.

Pfaff’s budget included \$30,000 for the project as was initially requested by the county, but another \$20,000 is needed to cover the updated cost. The city is responsible for one-third of the \$150,000 project, despite the city’s contention that the repairs should be done by Dane County.

The council also approved a new fee for the police department. The department

will be able to charge a \$30-per-day fee for large items stored by police that are no longer needed as evidence.

Another amendment will reduce auditing expenses by \$3,000.

Failed amendments

Arnold proposed several amendments that failed, with the biggest one being the request to speed up plans to construct a new fire station.

He was unable to get majority support because of the way it would affect borrowing and other aspects of the city’s finances.

Bloomquist said it would be “sheer lunacy” to forgo the roughly \$500,000 in expenditure restraint funds the city would get next year in order to start the northeast fire station in 2016.

Ald. Carol Poole said the fire station oversight committee has always had both stations in mind and didn’t think there would be any savings involved with starting the second station sooner.

Arnold’s plan to reimburse committee members for cab fare to meetings was also voted down. A new transit route estimated at \$112,000 was also denied. Several alders said they would prefer to wait until a transit study was completed before voting to add any new routes.

Arnold’s request for a \$150,000 North Fish Hatchery planning study was

denied 6-2.

Dorothy Krause’s amendment to add a stipend for alders to attend additional committee meetings was nixed 7-1 with Krause casting the lone “aye” vote.

A tie vote to spend \$10,000 for youth development was broken by mayor Shawn Pfaff, who said money included for the Boys and Girls Club would go toward helping at-risk youth.

Bloomquist’s amendment to give the municipal judge a pay increase was one of the last items, and as a result, would have pushed the city over the expenditure restraint limit. It was defeated.

He had planned to pay for that with two cost-cutting amendments that he had previously withdrew.

One would have reduced the city’s contribution to Madison Metro by \$25,000 for whichever bus route it determined was the least used. Another would have reduced the city’s advertising budget with the Fitchburg Star by \$5,000.

One amendment to add two full-time firefighter/inspectors was voted down 7-1 in part because funding for the chief was included. Arnold had proposed adding the two positions to the budget and was the sole yes vote. Pfaff said the roughly \$190,000 would be included in the 2016 budget after the new chief is hired.

BELIEVE MORE



Santa Breakfast

Saturday, November 15 | 8am – 10am | Food Court

Join us at the Santa Breakfast and help welcome Santa to the mall! Fun activities include balloon sculpting, prizes, facepainting, goody bags, musical entertainment and much more.

Breakfast is provided by McDonald’s and includes hotcakes, sausage and a beverage. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at the door.

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Calendar of events

- Friday, Nov. 14

 - 7:30 p.m., True Music: Benjamin Cartel Band (\$8, \$6 advance), True Coffee
- Saturday, Nov. 15

 - All Day, International Games Day, library, 729-1760
 - 7:30 p.m., True Music: Kiernan McMullan (\$8, \$6 advance) True Coffee
- Monday, Nov. 17

 - 9:30-10 a.m., Preschool Storytime (ages 2-5) (Mondays), library, 729-1760
 - 11-11:30 a.m., Preschool Storytime (ages 2-5) (Mondays), library, 729-1760
- Tuesday, Nov. 18

 - 11 a.m., Lapsit Storytime (ages 0-2) (Tuesdays), library, 729-1760
 - 11 a.m., (Tech) FACTv's Favorite Apps, senior center
 - 2 p.m., Learning Annex presents Mayor Pfaff, senior center
 - 5:30 p.m., READ to a Dog (ages 5-11), library, 729-1760
 - 6-7 p.m., Teen Library Council, library, 729-1760
- Wednesday, Nov. 19

 - 10 a.m., Book Discussion, library, 729-1760
 - 11 a.m. to noon, LinkedIn Basics, library, 729-1760
 - 11:30 a.m., UW Ext. Nutrition, Fall bounty of fresh vegetables, senior center
 - 2:30-4:30 p.m., 5:30-8 p.m., WisDOT public involvement meetings about Madison beltline, Boys & Girls Club Gym, 4619 Jenewein Road
 - 4 p.m., Cookie crafting: Turkey edition, library
 - 7-8 p.m., Mother Daughter Book Club (grades 3-5), library, 729-1760
- Thursday, Nov. 20

 - 10-11 a.m., Preschool Science (ages 3-6), library, 729-1760
- Friday, Nov. 21

 - 12:40-2:40 p.m., Movie Day: "Chef," free, donations accepted
- Saturday, Nov. 22

 - 7:30 p.m., Gin Chocolate and Bottle Rockets (\$8, \$6 advance), True Coffee
- Tuesday, Nov. 25

 - 10 a.m., Pelvic Floor Disorders, Dr. Heidi Brown, senior center
 - 2 p.m., Active Women's Group, senior center
 - 5-7 p.m., Teen Movie, library, 729-1760
- Wednesday, Nov. 26

 - 5 p.m., Library closed
- Thursday, Nov. 27

 - All day, Library closed
 - 7:30 a.m., Berbee Derby, 10K run and 5K walk, Fitchburg Center, 5500 E. Cheryl Pkwy., 888-337-2978
 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Free community
- Thanksgiving dinner, Pancake Cafe, 6220 Nesbitt Road, 204-7040

Friday, Nov. 28

 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., National Novel Writing Month: Come Write In, library, 729-1760
- Monday, Dec. 1

 - Winter Kids' Reading Program begins, library, 729-1760
 - 7 p.m., Microsoft Word Basics, library, 729-1760
- Tuesday, Dec. 2

 - 5-9 p.m., Volunteer orientation, Agrace, 5395 E. Cheryl Pkwy., 327-7163
 - 5:30 p.m., Crafts to Make and Give (ages 7-11), library, 729-1760
- Wednesday, Dec. 3

 - All day, library closed
- Thursday, Dec. 4

 - 10 a.m., Launch into Fun! (ages 3-6), library, 729-1760
 - 4-8 p.m., Get Festive with AGORA, 5500 E. Cheryl Pkwy., 277-2604
 - 6 p.m., Teen Mario Cart Tournament (for teens), library, 729-1760
 - 6:30 p.m., Green Thursdays Film, library, 729-1760
- Friday, Dec. 5

 - 4 p.m., Holiday Cookie Decorating (for families), library, 729-1760
- Saturday, Dec. 6

 - 11 a.m., Alternative Gifts Info Fair, library, 729-1760
 - 3 p.m., "The Snow Queen," Boys and Girls Club, 4619 Jenewein Rd., 204-9722
- Monday, Dec. 8

 - 7 p.m., Digital Photos: Saving, Sharing, & Fun, library, 729-1760
- Wednesday, Dec. 10

 - 10 a.m., Toddler Art (ages 1-3), library, 729-1760
 - 10 a.m., Book Discussion and Movie Screening, library, 729-1760
 - 11 a.m., Introduction to Skype, library, 729-1760
- Thursday, Dec. 11

 - 11 a.m., Third Annual Cookbook Club Cookie Exchange, library, 729-1760
 - 1-3 p.m., Holiday Silk Scarves, senior center, 270-4290
 - 6 p.m., Teen Library Council (for teens), library, 729-1760
- Sunday, Dec. 14

 - 1-4 p.m., Children's holiday party, 5510 Lacy Rd., 270-4285
- Thursday, Dec. 18

 - 5:30-7:30 p.m., Verona road project open house, City of Fitchburg Firehouse #2, 5415 King James Way



Photo by Samantha Christian

Above from left, Margie Ries, of Belleville, purchases cauliflower from Natalie Ortega, of Natalie's Garden & Greenhouse in Oregon, during the Nov. 6 indoor market.

Indoor farmers market continues

Just because the cold, wintry air is blowing leaves off the trees doesn't mean all the fall produce is gone.

From vegetables including potatoes, leeks, beets and carrots to canned and baked goods, the indoor farmers market still includes a wide variety of items.

About 10 vendors are gathering indoors to sell their goods at the Fitchburg Center Farmers Market from 3-6 p.m. every Thursday through Dec. 18, except for Thanksgiving Day.

Many of the vendors will be familiar to those who visited the outdoor farmers market during the summer and fall at the Agora just down the street.

Brenda Van Rossum, of Fitchburg, said her daughter Dakota, 2, was eager to come along so she could get cheese curds.

"She knew it was Thursday," Van Rossum said at the first indoor market of the season, held Nov. 6.

Phyllis Perrin, of Albany, was seated behind a table of hundreds of canned goods at Caroline's Old Tyme Products stand. The recipes she makes have been passed down through her family's generations.

"If I can't make a jam or jelly, I pickle it," she said.

Since The Hazelnut Cafe, LLC from Blue Mounds generally spends the summers selling its baked goods at other venues, it decided to try out the indoor market this fall and winter. Representing the business was the owner's father, Dan Heindl, who sold breads, cookies and granola.

Among the vendors are Bauman's Natural Meats, Farmer John's Cheese, Hazelnut Cafe, Chippy's

If you go

What: Indoor farmers market

When: 3-6 p.m., Thursdays through Dec. 18, no market on Thanksgiving Day

Where: Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Road

Info: 277-2606, fitchburgcenter.com

Kettle Corn and Popcorn Creations, Caroline's Old Tyme Products, Parr Acre Farms, Lo Farm, Paeleon Olive Oils & Soaps, Natalie's Garden & Greenhouse and Supreme Seafood.

Most of the vendors intend to show up each week, however some will only stay until their fresh produce runs out.

— Samantha Christian

Thanksgiving meals offered in community

Thanksgiving can be a time for many to gather with family and friends around a table for conversation and plentiful food. However, the reality is not everyone in the community has enough money for turkey with all the trimmings or even access to a hot meal.

Many area churches, organizations and businesses are offering free or reduced-price Thanksgiving meals in a congregated setting for low-income and homeless individuals and families who might otherwise have no opportunity to celebrate the holiday. For those who are also homebound, some programs also deliver Thanksgiving meals to people's homes.

The United Way of Dane County has created a list of traditional Thanksgiving meals that are open to all members of the community, including Fitchburg. For those who want to give back, there are also many volunteer opportunities available.

Programs are listed in order of date and time.

Independent Living

204-0923
independentlivinginc.org
Meals delivered around 12 p.m., Nov. 27
\$7.50 per meal
Evening Meals on Wheels delivers to homes in the greater Madison area. Call for locations.
Advance reservations are required by noon on Nov. 21, to receive a meal.
Volunteers are needed to prepare food and deliver meals on Nov. 27.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

5701 Raymond Road, Madison
271-6633, kzak@gslcwi.com
gslcwi.com
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 27
Free
No advance reservations are required to attend the meal. No delivery. Volunteer opportunities available.

Pancake Cafe

6220 Nesbitt Road, Madison
204-7040
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 27
Free for Thanksgiving

meal, regular menu price for Pancake Cafe menu
No reservations are required to attend the meal. Will provide free transportation from downtown.

St. Mark's Church

605 Spruce St., Madison
251-8405
stmarksmadison.org
12 p.m., Nov. 27
Free
No reservations needed for those coming from the church. Persons who are homebound can request a home-delivered meal arranged by the South Madison Coalition of the Elderly by registering by 12 p.m., Nov. 24.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

1609 University Ave., Madison
233-9751
firstcongmadison.org
12-4 p.m., Nov. 27
Free
No advance reservations are required to attend. Delivery is available to Madison and Fitchburg by calling before 4 p.m., Nov. 24. Volunteers are needed.



Photo submitted

Civil War Reenactment exhibit

Pictured from left are Rich Armstrong and Fitchburg resident Tom Klingele and Don Julie, PhotoMidwest members whose work is featured in the exhibit "Civil War Reenactment." The exhibit is on display in the second floor gallery of the Fitchburg Public Library until Nov. 30. The exhibit includes 24 black and white images of Civil War Reenactments at the Wade House in Greenbush, Wis.

Coming Up

International games

Gaming activities will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15, all over the library. There will be board games, card games, retro video games and more.

For more information, call 729-1760 or email matthew.heindel@fitchburwi.gov.

Favorite apps

FACTV has a new class geared towards apps that will be at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, in the senior center.

In this class, you will learn how to use the app store for Apple products, how to download apps and which apps are currently the top-trending apps in the world.

Learning Annex

Find out why Fitchburg really is a good idea at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the senior center.

Mayor Shawn Pfaff will update everyone on 2014 and 2015 projects, the city’s vision and goals and answer questions.

R.E.A.D. to a dog

Reading to a dog is a wonderful way to build reading skills and confidence. Independent readers in grade K-5 can sign up for a 20 minute spot from 5:30-7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, to sit down in the library’s storytime room and read to a registered therapy animal.

For more information and to sign up, call 729-1760 or stop by the youth services desk. Sign-up required.

Teen library council

Be a part of making decisions about your teen library by joining Teen Library Council at the Fitchburg library from 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18 in the library’s meeting room A/B. Children grades 6-12.

For more information, call 729-1760.

Nutrition discussed

Learn about the fall bounty of fresh vegetables at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 19, with Tonia from the UW Extension Nutrition program at the senior center.

For more information, call the senior center at 270-4290.

LinkedIn basics

Learn how to create an

account and start using LinkedIn in the library’s technology center from 11 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Nov. 19.

You’ll also learn how LinkedIn can help you network to find your next job. For more information, call 729-1760.

Preschool science

Experiment with science at the library from 10-11 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 20, in the storytime room. Recommended for ages 3-6.

Cookie crafting

Stop by the library’s storytime room at 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21, and make a craft good enough to eat.

Use various “materials” and lots of glue (melted chocolate) to construct a cookie you’d swear was a turkey. The end result is both festive and delicious. For ages 4-11.

For more information, call 729-1760.

Teen movie

Enjoy free popcorn while watching a movie in the library’s meeting room A/B from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 25. The movie will be voted on at the Teen Library Council meeting Tuesday, Nov. 18. It will be rated PG or PG-13.

A permission slip is required for those 17 and under. For grades 6-12. For more information, call 729-1760.

Novel writing month

Join fellow writers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 28, for support at the library as you work on the last few words of your NaNoWriMo project.

Enjoy cozy spaces, and explore the library’s resources that can help you with your novel. Coffee will be provided. For more information, call 729-1760.

Reading program

The library invites kids and teens to participate in its winter reading program. From Dec. 1 to Jan. 31, track your winter reading on a library bingo sheet.

When you fill three spaces in a row, come back to put your name on the wall of stars. When you fill up your entire bingo sheet, enter into the grand prize drawing.

Microsoft Word class

The library will have two classes on using Microsoft Word. The first session, at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 1, will be a basics class where participants will learn how to create documents and use basic tools and editing features.

The second session, at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, will be an intermediate class. This class will go more in depth with tools and editing features in Microsoft Word. For more information, call 729-1763.

Crafts to make and give

The library celebrates the season of giving with a craft program to help kids ages 7-11 make gifts.

On Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m., stop by the library to make something special for a family member or friend. All supplies will be provided.

Green films

The Natural Step Monona will feature “Unwasted:

The Future of Business on Earth” at the library at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4.

The film stresses that businesses produce nearly as much waste as they do product. Disposal, recycling and composting are costly, but the film asks, “What is the real cost to business and community?”

Get Festive with Agora

Raise a toast to the holiday season at the Agora, 5500 E. Cheryl Pkwy. From 4-8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4. Take a candlelit stroll and enjoy the twinkling lights while you partake in some holiday fare.

There will be free carriage rides, holiday music, a luminary lighting benefit for HospiceCare,retailer discounts and prizes, complimentary appetizers and drinks, music and more.

‘The Snow Queen’

PlayTime Productions will perform a free theatrical version of the classic fairy tale “The Snow Queen” at the Boys and Girls Club in the Allied Family Center, 4619 Jenewein Road, at 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6.

PlayTime productions creates a community theatre by children and for children with all-you casts (ages 8-15) enchanting audiences around Dane County since 1979. For more information, call 204-9722.

Cookie exchange

The library is hosting

its third annual cookie exchange at 11 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 11. Everyone can attend, even if you haven’t been at a previous Cookbook Club event.

Bake six dozen of your favorite holiday cookies, and bring them, and a copy of your recipe, to the library to sample and exchange with others. Coffee and milk will be provided, and we will discuss your recipes and holiday baking traditions.

Holiday silk scarves

Create a colorful silk scarf at the senior center from 1-3 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11. Use materials to dye fabric in a microwave for easy yet beautiful scarves.

Bring an apron, rubber gloves, an old towel and your imagination for creative fun. A payment of

\$30 is due to the instructor, Nancy Welch, on the day of the class. To register, call 270-4290.

Digital photos class

The library will be offering a class on how to save and share digital photos on a variety of websites at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8.

Participants will also learn about fun projects they can create with their photos. For more information, call 729-1763.

Kid’s holiday party

Enjoy a fun and festive event at the Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Rd. from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14. Visit with Santa, get your face painted, take a carriage ride, and make s’mores. For more information, call 270-4285.



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835-0883
papamurphys.com

Verona
1021 N. Edge Trail
848-7000

Offer expires 11/30/14
Not valid with other offers
adno=380709-01

Politics color debate over Common Core standards

SCOTT DE LARUELLE AND SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

Gov. Scott Walker’s re-election Nov. 4 could play a big part in the future of school standards in Wisconsin.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS), first adopted in Wisconsin and by nearly every state in 2010 after a consortium including the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers created them, are in the midst of a new political battle. A handful of states have since replaced Common Core or are considering doing so, and earlier this year, Walker asked state legislators to repeal the standards when they convene in January.

Supporters of the standards locally and at the state level have said opposition comes mostly from a misunderstanding of what they are. While some worry the standards have created a national curriculum and taken away local control, those involved said that’s simply not true.

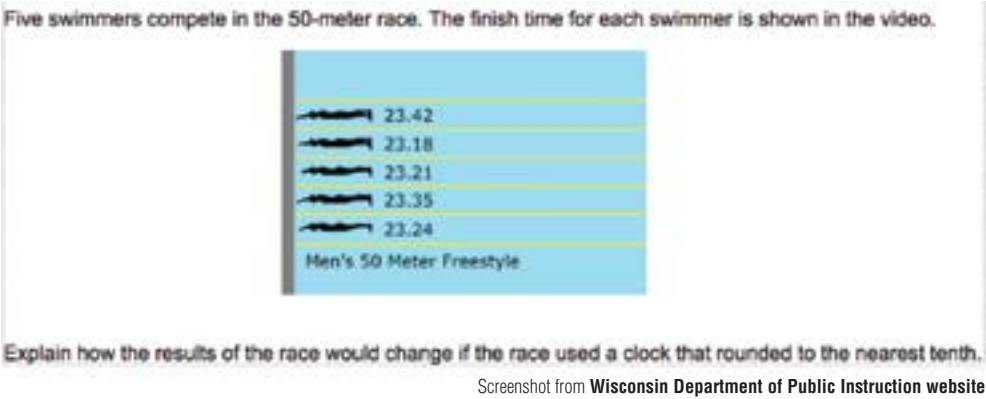
Oregon School District director of instruction Leslie Bergstrom pointed out that Common Core itself is not a curriculum.

“How we support students in meeting the (standards) is a local decision,” she said.

What’s the difference?

Understanding what’s happening in your child’s classroom can be complicated as districts transition to personalized learning and increase their use of technology. Add new standards and tests and it gets even tougher.

The way the CCSS standards are written have likely made what’s happening even



Wisconsin students in grades 3-8 will take the Smarter Balanced assessment for the first time in spring 2015. The tests were developed to align with the Common Core State Standards, which have become a political controversy lately around the United States. This screenshot is one sample question from the test.

harder for parents to fully grasp, said Stephanie Symes, who teaches sixth-grade English language arts at Savanna Oaks Middle School in the Verona Area School District.

“They’re written for educators; they’re not really written for people outside the educational world,” Symes said.

But she said teachers have been doing their best to communicate the standards and what they mean to students, who can then hopefully bring that understanding home to their parents.

What they mean is that there is a change in instructional styles, said VASD director of curriculum and instruction Anne Franke, who is helping to implement the standards after joining the district this summer.

“It isn’t about, ‘I’m just going to sit down and I’m going to learn these facts,’ or, ‘I’m going to do all of these problems,’” Franke said. “It’s about, ‘I’m really going to understand the math that I’m doing. I’m going to be able to explain my reasoning and my thinking.’”

As an example of what has

and has not changed, Franke pointed to math classes like geometry, which still exist just as they did for parents. But the way problems are approached in such a class has likely seen major changes in recent years.

Instead of teaching the “correct” way to solve a problem and then having students solve problems using that strategy, a teacher might hand out a problem without telling the students how to solve it right away, and ask them to work in groups to find ways to solve it. Eventually, the teacher will go over the “efficiency” of the best way to solve a problem, but the students will hopefully have a greater understanding of the math behind it, Franke said.

New tests

Critical thinking skills will be evaluated with new state tests beginning next spring as well – a significant change in both timing and style of testing. Instead of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE), which had been taken in the fall by fourth-, eighth- and tenth-grade students, students

in grades 3-8 will take the Smarter Balanced Test.

Ninth- and tenth-graders will now take an Achieve test, and high school juniors will be required to take the ACT. All of those will take place in the spring for math and English language arts, though students are still taking the WKCE for science and social studies this year.

Testing every year from third to eighth grade is a major component, because the new standards allow for districts to see where students are at with the grade-level benchmarks the standards set. Previously, as students were only tested on WKCE three times, districts had to set their own path to getting students to those acceptable benchmarks in the intervening grades.

Political angle

School standards don’t typically get front-page headlines, but with the politics infused into the debate in recent months, Common Core has become a hot-button issue. Nationally, many people who align themselves with “Tea Party” Republicans say the standards are an example of the federal government intruding into the affairs of the states.

When Wisconsin adopted the CCSS in 2010, a Democrat lived in the governor’s mansion. Since then, however, Republican legislators in the state have discussed taking another look at the standards as they took over the majority in the legislature and the governor’s mansion.

In February, a bill to repeal the standards initiated and drafted with the assistance of Gov. Walker’s office staff never made it out of the state

Origin of Common Core

The path to Wisconsin adopting the Common Core standards began in 2007, as the state joined the American Diploma Project – aimed at revising the previous Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in English and math to improve college and career readiness.

A task force and draft set of standards were created, and by 2009, state education officials recognized the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) initiative was gaining momentum. Wisconsin adopted the standards in June 2010.

Emilee Amundson, the team director for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction team implementing Common Core, said the leadership teams that developed those state drafts early on were key in the decision to go with the new standards.

While the state adopted the standards, it was up to local school districts to use them or not, Amundson said – though districts were informed that state-mandated tests would be aligned to Common Core. She called the state’s adoption a “signal to the field” that DPI recognized the standards as “high” and “clear.”

Most districts around the state did adopt them, and the state began providing support for a “phased implementation.” That slower process helped put strength behind the standards, Amundson said, unlike in states such as New York, where the standards were immediately put into place.

The timeline called for taking one year to understand the standards in 2010-11, developing local curricula based on the standards in 2011-12 and developing and refining assessments from 2012-15 with a planned first year of new testing based on the standards in 2014-15.

Senate. Fuel to that fire was added in July, when Walker issued a brief statement calling on state legislators to “pass a bill in early January to repeal Common Core and replace it with standards set by people in Wisconsin.”

The legislature held a public hearing March 6 on a proposed bill to establish a committee to review education standards where school officials from around the state, including Madison Metropolitan School District superintendent Jennifer Cheatham, turned out in support of the standards and against the proposal.

“The Common Core asks our students to use multiple sources of information, to think critically and solve complex problems,” Cheatham said, according to

prepared remarks. “It is the kind of learning that truly engages students and prepares them with the skills they need to be successful – the skills that employers look for in today’s economy. Through the new standards, our students are being challenged in a way that many of them haven’t been before – not through bubble sheets and memorization, but through application of skills to meaningful and complex tasks.”

Reasoning unclear

In response to emailed questions from the Star, Walker’s press secretary Laurel Patrick wrote that Walker “will work with the Legislature to repeal Common Core and replace it with strong Wisconsin-specific standards.”

“After talking with parents, teachers, school board members and taxpayers from across the state, it became clear that they want standards set by people from Wisconsin that are rigorous and tailored to Wisconsin’s history of high achievement,” Patrick wrote.

When asked on multiple occasions for specific reasons why Walker wants to repeal Common Core and how the new standards would be more rigorous and better tailored to Wisconsin’s history of high achievement, Patrick did not respond to the questions and referred back to the original statement.

For its part, the state Department of Public Instruction hopes the standards can move beyond politics sometime soon, said spokesman Tom McCarthy.

“I think (politicizing the standards is) not helpful,” McCarthy said. “It doesn’t help students in the classroom, it doesn’t help schools, it doesn’t help districts.”

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More than a jog

Girls on the Run founder visits, inspires Leopold group

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

Molly Barker sat in a circle at Leopold Elementary School, surrounded by girls hanging on her every word. She told a story about finding her young daughter running “butt naked in red cowboy boots” down the street. “Was (my daughter) Helen comfortable in her own skin?” Barker asked the group. “Maybe a little too much,” she answered herself with a laugh.

Barker was at the school as part of the Girls on the Run (GOTR) group’s final meeting of the fall season, trying to teach a group of young girls some lessons, including being comfortable in their own skin. The group, which just completed its sixth season, is part of a national organization Barker founded in 1996 that aims to empower young girls while also instilling physical fitness into the lessons. Locally, the group has made an impressive impact on both the students and coaches. “She was just inspirational,” said Leopold GOTR coach and liaison Kendra Cerniglia. The event included Barker encouraging the third- to fifth-grade girls, along with some parents and coaches, to always volunteer for whatever the world needed, find their



Photos by Scott Girard

From left, third-grader Oriana Whitford, fifth-grader Sydney Amundsen, fourth-grader Ashely Temich Sanchez and coach Lori Zlnck listen to Girls on the Run founder Molly Barker tell a story about her daughter. Below, Barker holds hands with fourth-grader Ciarra Kelley before getting the group into a group hug.



talent and “knock it out of the ballpark” and use their voice to overcome nerves. “If you’re scared of something but you really want to get it out, find a friend,” Barker told the group, recalling that’s how she began GOTR after initially worrying it wasn’t a good idea. The Leopold group meets twice a week for an hour and a half after school for 10 weeks, with one fall season and one spring season each year. The season culminates with a 5K race, and this year Barker was at the event in Waunakee Saturday, Nov. 8, where the Leopold girls ran up and excitedly hugged their new friend, Cerniglia said.

Cerniglia said the group has made girls “able to stand up for themselves and advocate for themselves” in a time where that can be a challenge. That was echoed by the

girls themselves as they went around the circle telling Barker in one word what they loved about GOTR: Positivity, empowering, encouraging, love and challenging were among the many answers given. Cerniglia, who began as a coach with the Leopold group when it came to the school and later became the liaison, said she’s now gotten to see girls who started with the program as third-graders grow into fifth-graders. That’s especially powerful for one girl, who has grown “to someone who was really kind of a leader in the group.” “She definitely grew as a person and as a runner,” Cerniglia said.

Barker recalled her own story of seeing a student grow in a group she ran years ago. The young girl never spoke during the GOTR meetings thanks to selective mutism from a tumultuous childhood, but as the season went on, Barker said she noticed a big change in her comfort level, even if the words weren’t there. At the season’s banquet, the girl gave Barker a card, which taught her a lesson she passed on to the Leopold students. “At any point, if you’ve changed one person’s life, you’ve changed the world,” she said. For more information on GOTR in Dane County, visit girlsontherundaneco.org.



Photos by Scott Girard

Regent roar

Madison West celebrated its homecoming with a parade on a beautiful Friday afternoon Oct. 10. The route took West students down Chadbourne Avenue, past cheering Randall Elementary School students and all the way back to the school. The football team beat Janesville Craig that night 27-7 to cap off the celebration.



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Photo by Scott Girard

Movie night

Prairie View Elementary School held the first of three movie nights planned for this academic year Friday, Oct. 17, in the school gym. Families gathered to watch “Peabody and Sherman,” eat popcorn and catch up on how the year is going. Above, Netherwood Knoll Elementary students Gloria Outhouse Sieling, 9, left, and Lola Bronchetti, 9, right, serve up some popcorn before movie night.

What’s online

Read these and other schools stories at Connect Fitchburg.com.

2014-15 budget

The Oregon School Board approved a budget Oct. 28 that brought the mill rate down to \$11.98 per \$1,000 of assessed property value because the referendums passed. Had they failed, the rate would have been \$11.65.

Allegations against basketball coach

After parents accused Oregon High School boys basketball coach Jon Nedelcoff of bullying at the Oct. 13 school board meeting, a crowd of around 150 turned out at the Oct. 27 meeting to defend the coach. School board president Dan Krause said an investigation into the allegations is ongoing.

German, Oregon students bond over WWII

OHS students spent time bonding last summer with German students in Langen over their points of view of World War 1.

Referendum a big success

Good turnout as board members look to probable April referendum

SCOTT DE LARUELLE
Unified Newspaper Group

After the last Oregon School District referendum vote went down in flames in April 2012, it was a bit of a surprise that the latest attempt – two separate votes at nearly twice the cost – passed by such a comfortable margin (around 60-40 percent).

But with years of work put in by district officials to better understand residents’ wishes, as well as communicate their own needs, they said the public’s positive reaction indicates the two sides have made significant progress toward understanding each other.

In a letter last week to district residents from Oregon School Board president Dan Krause and district superintendent Brian Busler, the two thanked voters for “their consideration of the solutions” the district presented to voters on Nov. 4.

“We are pleased the solutions have met the needs of the district and the community as a whole,” read the letter. “We have also appreciated having an open dialogue with community members and hearing a variety of views on how to address the

Total vote

Question 1 (capital)

Yes	6,220
No	3,733

Question 2

Yes	6,002
No	3,890

– Dane County Clerk

opportunities and challenges we face together. In the spirit of openness and honesty, this dialogue must continue.”

Krause and Busler said that the district will continue to “foster dialogue with community members” about the future of its schools.

“We will also continue our commitment to protecting the educational priorities of the district and make the most of every single dollar invested by residents into their schools,” they wrote. “One of our major accomplishments as a result of this seven-year effort (to pass referendums) was that community members expressed to us that they felt a sense of ownership of their district.”

The last time the district went to referendum, voters soundly defeated a \$33 million plan to upgrade the high school, middle school and athletic fields and a second referendum to exceed revenue caps by \$150,000 a year to maintain the new facilities. This time around, the \$54.6 million plan covered improvements to all of

the district’s schools except Rome Corners Intermediate School, which is the district’s newest building.

Referendum projects that can now get underway include a variety of projects throughout the district.

Brooklyn Elementary will get a \$1.3 million roof replacement and maintenance project, a \$2.3 million cafeteria and kitchen addition and \$809,000 classroom addition. Netherwood Knoll Elementary gets a \$1.5 million heating/air conditioning upgrade, and Prairie View Elementary will get a \$777,000 storm water improvement and outdoor classroom.

Oregon Middle School will get a \$3 million music addition, \$1.8 million STEAM addition and a \$954,000 new secure entrance.

And at Oregon High School, there will be an \$8.2 million two-story classroom addition, \$5 million physical education addition and locker room renovation and a \$4.4 million three-station gymnasium.

April referendum?

School board member Rae Vogeler told the Observer the positive vote on the referendums shows the community “supports investing in our schools,” and she pointed to an upcoming likely referendum in April on teacher compensation that was postponed earlier this year.

“We want to draw and retain our excellent teachers so that we can keep our schools strong,” she said.

But the major reason for deciding to wait until April for the teacher compensation referendum was the lack of a clear, final plan. Although the initial proposal had a \$3.5 million recurring number tied to it, members of the Teacher Compensation Committee indicated the details needed to be ironed out before the district could try to sell a plan to voters.

The board has been working with the Oregon Education Association in recent weeks to make progress on the plan, including a closed session at Monday night’s school board meeting.

Earlier this year, Krause said the new teacher compensation plan will eventually put the district “head and shoulders above the competition when it comes to attracting and retaining new and skilled teachers.

“We’ve had enough money to keep our buildings running, we’ve had enough money to make all the repairs we needed to make, and we’re in good shape mainly because and largely because these sacrifices that our teachers and staff have made in their salaries,” he said. “We are not overlooking that.”

Vogeler said quality education is an asset to Oregon because it helps “put us on the map” as a good place to live, drawing families to the community to help it thrive.

“First-rate education is not just about the buildings, but those who teach and learn inside those buildings,” she said.

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Photo by Scott Girard

Rescued from the rubble

Five flags were recovered at Country View Elementary School June 17 following the EF3 tornado that destroyed four classrooms at the school. The fifth flag had been flying over the school. Superintendent Dean Gorrell made a point to gather the flags that morning, knowing he wanted to do something with them eventually. He presented them to the school's teachers Oct. 21. The flags will hang in rooms 206, 210, 211, 212, where they were recovered, while the fifth will hang in a common area.

Above, superintendent Dean Gorrell presents the flags to Country View staff Tuesday afternoon.

What's online

Read these and other schools stories at ConnectFitchburg.com.

2014-15 budget

The Verona school board approved a small tax cut at its Oct. 27 meeting, bringing the mill rate down to \$12.04 per \$1,000 of assessed property value from last year's \$12.27.

PLTW gets new space

The Project Lead the Way program got a pair of new classrooms this year for around \$400,000 at Verona Area High School.

What's next: High school or elementary?

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

There's likely to be more than one new school in the Verona Area School District in the next decade or so, but the question is whether the district starts with a high school or an elementary.

Those were the two options offered by the school board Oct. 20 at a retreat to provide guidance for the Future Schools Committee, which was established earlier this year as the district began to look into expansion and land purchases.

Whichever the committee ends up deciding on, board member Joanne Gauthier pointed out Monday that the district faces both a "short-term problem and a long-term problem" with school expansion.

"And problems in between," superintendent Dean Gorrell added with a laugh.

That mix of problems is part of why the board has agreed to three land purchase agreements for a total of \$10 million in recent weeks.

And though board president Dennis Beres pointed out the land wouldn't likely be entirely used for 25 or 30 years, all three purchases are expected to be on the April ballot as part of a referendum for voter approval.

A fourth piece of land near the North Neighborhood the City of Verona is planning could also be coming, though the board has yet to discuss any specifics of that purchase

in open session.

The district created the 19-member Future Schools Committee to gather community input on potential new buildings and grade reconfigurations after it became clear land purchases were coming. The committee had asked for more guidance at its initial May meeting, and that's partly why it hasn't met since.

Short term, long term

When it does meet again, board members concluded Monday, it will have to discuss how to best alleviate the near-term issues while also taking a long-term look at the district's future growth.

In the short term, the Glacier Edge Elementary School attendance area on the south side of the district is growing at an unsustainable rate, with the Cathedral Point and Scenic Ridge neighborhoods taking on most of Verona's available area for development. The school was already 49 students over projections this year, and one of the land purchases would help alleviate those concerns if an elementary school were built there.

In the long-term, Verona projects as a city that will continue to grow, along with Madison's southwest side and the west side of Fitchburg, and while that could mean immediate needs at the elementary level, those kids will eventually grow into the middle and high school students.

That led some on the board to mention an alternative to the traditional elementary-middle-high school expansion sequence.

"It just seems to me that the better road may be just to go top-down on this and think about building a high school with a pretty large capacity," said board member Derrell Connor, "because Verona's growing like crazy and just looking at the current high school and framing things out from there."

That possibility exists because two of the proposed land purchases are adjacent and would offer more than 100 acres of land on the west side of the city.

But any choice brings another set of decisions, whether that's new boundary lines or grade reconfigurations or something yet to be determined.

Whatever decisions are made, they will be done under the board's guidelines established when Country View Elementary School was being built around the 1999-2000 school year, which the board reaffirmed Oct. 20.

Options

Part of the reason the board isn't sure about what to build and when is because the proposed land purchases create many options, said board president Dennis Beres.

Though it is a long-term plan, and the properties likely wouldn't even be fully used for 25 to 30 years, those purchases would also create flexibility now in making decisions such as grade reconfigurations, elementary school expansion

or a new high school.

But all of the options come with drawbacks, such as redrawn boundary lines for elementary schools further breaking up the district's northeastern corner, which includes much of the district's low-income population.

Possibilities include a kindergarten center, where all kindergarten students would attend, or a charter building to house all of the charter schools, but board members were hesitant to embrace either idea yet.

A few members gave positive reviews to the high school-first idea, specifically mentioning the flexibility having the current high school building open could allow for in both the short- and long-term.

In any case, Beres said, it's important to purchase the land while it's available, echoing a point Gorrell made when the purchases were first approved.

"This is an opportunity that fell in our laps and it's foolish to not take advantage of it," Beres said. "We'll probably never have that opportunity."

"It's just such a no-brainer, it bothers me to even have to come down to, 'What are you going to do with it?' How the hell do I know? I'm not going to be on the board in 40 years from now."

The Future Schools Committee will meet again later this fall and will start by looking at the two main options, for an elementary school first or a high school.

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There are significant tax provisions that expired December 31, 2013 and now is a good time to revisit your tax situation. This is especially true if you are a business owner because of these tax changes and/or significant swings in net profits that sometimes occur. Get started today and contact your tax expert!

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Stephen Rudolph
FACHE, CSA

SENIOR CARE

Q. What is influenza and why is it more dangerous for seniors?

A. Influenza, also known as the flu, is caused by a virus, or a germ. While most people recover in 1-2 weeks from the flu, others develop serious lung infections. This type of flu complication can land one in the hospital, and also lead to Pneumonia, Bronchitis and other serious infections. More than 60% of seasonal flu-related hospitalizations and 90% of related deaths occur in people 65 years and older. The flu is a greater concern for the elderly because, as we get older, our immune system becomes weaker. This makes it easier for seniors to get the flu, and much more difficult to fight off complications from it. Ask your doctor if you should get a flu shot and when to get it. You can go to your local clinic or even the local pharmacy to receive your flu shot. Now's the time to set up your flu shot appointment because most medical experts recommend you get a flu shot in November. In general the 'flu season' begins in December and can last until spring. If you wait until the midst of flu season to get a shot, these antibodies in the flu shot won't have enough time to develop immunity from the flu. According to the National Institution on Aging, Medicare will pay for a flu shot.



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Kristin Kellerman
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Kathleen C. Aiken

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Jill Unwin,
D.C., C.C.E.P

CHIROPRACTOR

Q. Are there any natural ways to prevent a cold?

A. Our immune system is our natural defense against disease including cold, flu, and sinus infections. The best way to maintain a healthy immune system is by minimizing stress. Moderate exercise, a healthy diet low in processed carbohydrates and sugars, and adequate sleep of at least 7 hours per night are things that you can do daily to keep your body up to the task of fighting off illness. Additionally, research studies find chiropractic adjustments and massage therapy to be mutually beneficial in prevention by supporting our immune systems. Chiropractic adjustments increase our bodies' immunoglobulin A levels while massage therapy increases levels of our "killer cells" known as lymphocytes, with both treatments decreasing levels of cortisol (a major component of stress). All of these tools combined will make you a healthier individual so even if you catch that cold you will be on a pathway to a more rapid recovery.

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Dr. Peter C. Jackson, PSYD
Consultant for Four Winds

LONG TERM CARE

Q. My father is having a lot of short-term memory problems and often forgets about past events. Sometimes he tells the same story again and again. I feel that I should correct him, but that doesn't seem to make much difference. I find that I get worried and frustrated with him. How should I respond to him when he does this?

A. It is natural to worry about our parents, because we want them to be as we have always known them, but of course changes in all of our physical and mental capacities is a natural part of life and it accelerates in our later years. Knowing this, try to relax and be patient with your father because he doesn't realize (or remember) he is doing this. Sometimes a simple gentle correction is alright to do, but other times it's OK to allow your father to speak without correcting him. The important thing is to respond in the most beneficial way for both you and your father. For help with tough issues like this,

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Kathryn Newhouse

RESIDENTIAL HELP IS AT HAND

Q. What is it about your work in the concierge business that you enjoy the most?

A. Helping people, that's what I enjoy the most. Let's face it, we all get behind at home. It bothers you, and you may be arguing about it with your life partner. It puts stress in the home and you may struggle with how to resolve the problem. The truth is, there are only so many hours in the day. Instead, call Concierge Madison. What I enjoy the most is relieving stress in my customer's lives. I've been helping people manage their homes for 16 years and have even been accused of saving people's marriages! Some things we have no control over; some things we do have control over. Relieving stress in the family begins with a call to Concierge Madison.

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adno=370506-01



Photos by Samantha Christian

Community members and neighbors came together to paint a street mural in September at the intersection of Sunfish Court and Turbot Drive. Pictured seated at left is Veronica Lazo, executive director of UNIDOS, and walking through the center are Mila Pekarek Krohn, 9, and Mattie Sloan, 9.

An asphalt canvas

Leopold neighborhood turns street into mural

SAMANTHA CHRISTIAN AND KATHRYN CHEW
Unified Newspaper Group

Art is everywhere, or at least it can be.

The City of Madison recently changed the ordinance to allow pavement paintings and asked local artist Sharon Kilfoy, of the Willy Street Art Center, to coordinate four pilot projects.

Together with the community, the Leopold and Arbor Hills neighborhood associations helped create one of these “Paint the Pavement” art murals near Fitchburg at the intersection of Turbot Drive and Sunfish Court.

The area is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the state, leading the association to change its name to Leopold Neighborhood Many Nations Association, said president Erv Bendorf.

According to a news release, the painting was intended to celebrate community pride and show off the neighborhood to outside visitors.

“The intention is to get neighbors out, getting them to know each other ... (as) a community building (event),” Linda Horvath of the city planning division said.

The mural design process with input from neighbors began on Aug. 19, and more than 80 volunteers of all ages started painting on Sept. 20.

The design contained within a circle depicts whole continents, rather than countries or flags, with welcoming hands extending from them.

Included are different kinds of fish represented on nearby street names, including turbot, sunfish, pike and coho.

“We decided to do this ... so more people could identify with the scope of places on the planet from which people have found their way to the Leopold neighborhood,” Kilfoy said.



Erv Bendorf, president of the Leopold Neighbors Many Nations Association, and Sharon Kilfoy, who designed the street painting, clean paint brushes at the event on Sept. 21.

Fitchburg native participates in marine biology program

Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) biology student Rachel Walsh participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at the College of Charleston this summer.

She is the daughter of David and Shirley Walsh, of Fitchburg.

Walsh worked with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to analyze the genetic population health of horseshoe crabs in South Carolina. She was one of 10 visiting students participating in the National Science Foundation (NSF) funded program, which immerses undergraduate students in a 10-week marine biology research experience.

Horseshoe crab blood is non-lethally harvested and used in the biomedical industry to ensure patient safety by detecting harmful endotoxins released by E. coli and other gram negative bacteria.

“It was a challenging yet rewarding experience,” Walsh said. “I met and worked with great people, learned a lot about the various paths researchers took to get to the position they’re in, learned about graduate school and gained a real life perspective into a career in marine biology research.”

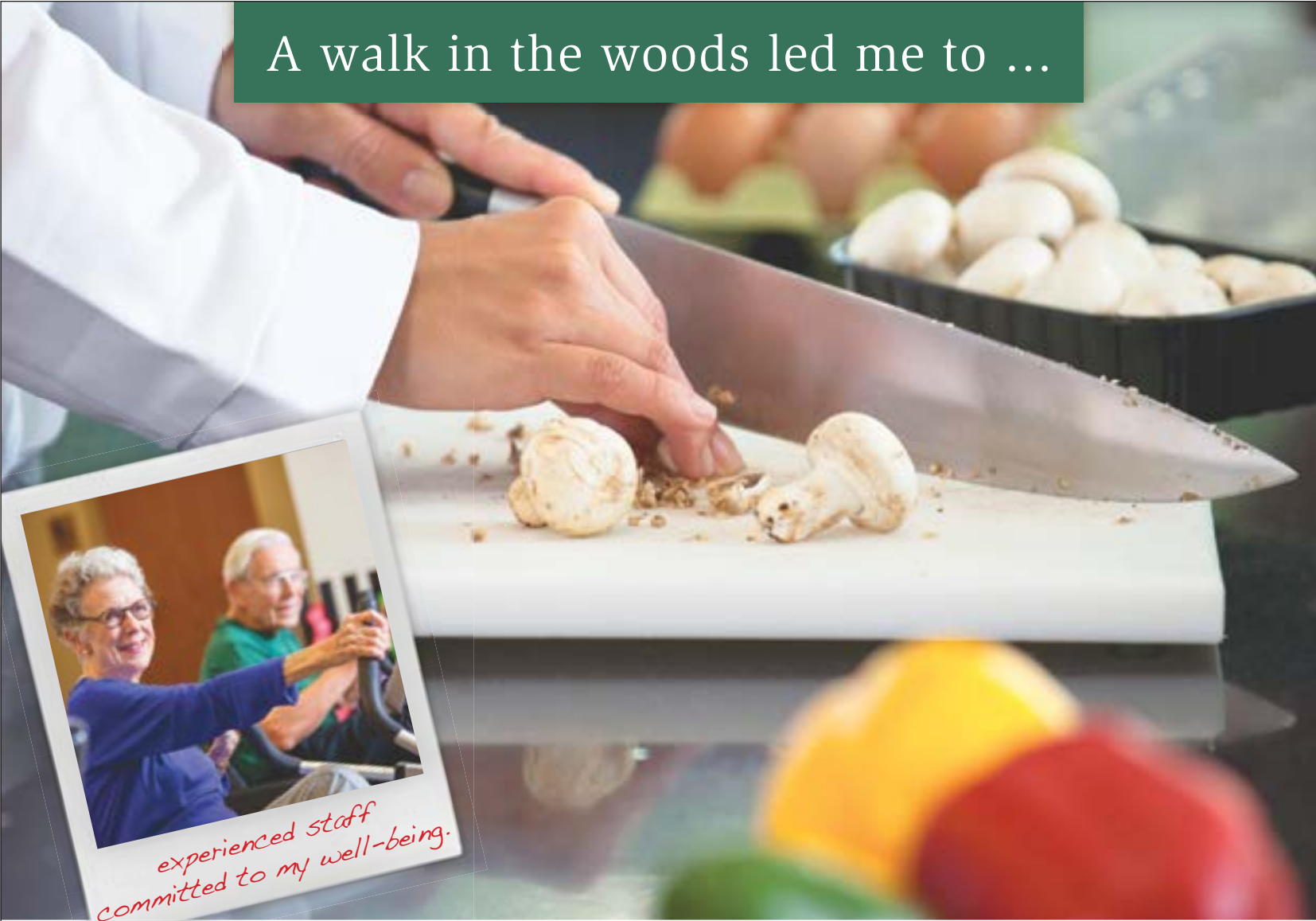


Photo submitted

Rachel Walsh, of Fitchburg, analyzes the genetic population health of horseshoe crabs in South Carolina. The biology major at Minnesota State University Moorhead participated in a 10-week marine biology Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the College of Charleston this summer.

Walsh has previously conducted research at MSUM on the population genetics of native prairie bees and fish ecology research.

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City of Fitchburg

Redesigned Hindu temple at Fish Hatchery Road approved

Parking, occupancy limits will be imposed

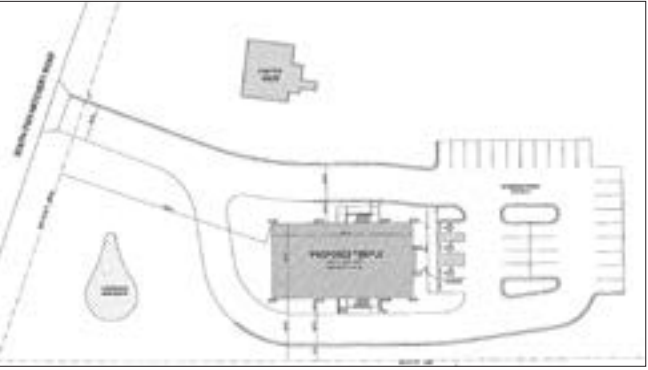
MARK IGNATOWSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

A new house of worship for Madison-area Hindus will soon be built on South Fish Hatchery Road. The city’s Planning Commission gave the go-ahead to the American Hindu Association for a temple at 2138 S. Fish Hatchery Road at its Sept. 16 meeting.

The building – designed by Supreme Structures of Fitchburg – was originally approved as a metal pole barn-type construction. Approval was given to the group in April 2013, but the building was never built. The final plans have been updated to include a wood-frame building with masonry, stucco and shingled roof, said chairman of the association’s board of trustees Mahesh Sharma. “These changes allow us to construct a high-end,

energy efficient building that has all of the requirements set forth by our religion,” Sharma said in a letter to the city. A public hearing earlier this month drew no opposition to the plans. The 4,320-square-foot building will have a first-floor worship area and a multipurpose room in the basement. The American Hindu Association chose to limit the building’s capacity to 160 people instead of the

300 people allowed by the state. The limit is based on tenants of the Hindu religion, city documents show. Commission members chose to include the AHA capacity limits as a condition of the site use so that any future user would also be limited to about 160 people, based on the 32 approved parking stalls. Construction is expected to be finished this coming spring.



Rendering courtesy McCoy Engineering
An updated wood-frame building with masonry will serve as a Hindu temple on South Fish Hatchery Road.

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Fitchburg pastors plant Redeemer City Church on city’s west side after unexpected meeting

SAMANTHA CHRISTIAN
Unified Newspaper Group

Fitchburg residents Nathan Hobert and Casey Johnson have come from varied backgrounds to form the new Redeemer City Church in Fitchburg, a daughter church of The Vine Church. Hobert grew up the son of a pastor, while Johnson admittedly grew up as a bit of a “wild child.” Hobert said he wouldn’t follow in his father’s footsteps, but all that changed when he entered college. “There were all of these peers who were centered on Jesus, and it just really changed my life,” he said. He was in college ministry for about 10 years. Johnson grew up in Stoughton and then lived in Florida and California for 20 years. “I was trying to write screenplays ... and then met Jesus,” said Johnson, who also used to start nightclubs before he became a Christian. “I love to start new things.” Their paths “randomly” crossed in 2012 at an airport, where they found out they had more in common than one might expect.

Redeemer City Church
Location: Cesar Chavez Elementary School, 3502 Maple Grove Dr.
Worship Services: 10 a.m., Sundays
Info: redeemercitychurch.org

Both had studied at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando in different years. While Hobert had been part of planting The Vine Church in 2010 and was looking to plant another in the Madison area, Johnson wanted to plant a church – he just wasn’t sure where. After months of “prayerful deliberation,” the two planted Redeemer City Church, where Hobert is the pastor of spiritual formation and Johnson is the pastor of vision and mission. The church’s denomination is Evangelical Free Church of America and it is part of an Acts 29 church planting network. **Young congregation** Redeemer City Church started meeting in people’s homes for worship a few



Photo by Samantha Christian
Casey Johnson, left, and Nathan Hobert, right, are the pastors of Redeemer City Church.

months ago and held its first service at Cesar Chavez Elementary School on Oct. 12. Approximately 65 adults and 35 children showed up to the first service. Ideally they would like to attract more people from the vicinity of the school and North Fish Hatchery Road. In just a few hours each Sunday, the cafeteria is transformed into a worship space. Two families in the congregation provide guitar and vocal music, and lyrics and quotes from scripture are shown on a large screen rather than the congregation using hymnals. “We just like people to be looking up in their worship,” Johnson said. “It’s more communal.” The average age of the members is 27 years old. Many members have young children. “We have three classes for ages 10 and under – for now, until we continue to grow and add some more,” Johnson said. Johnson primarily

City Groups
West Fitchburg
Meadowood, 5812 Monticello Way,
5:30-7:30 p.m.,
Tuesdays
North Fitchburg
The Pines, 2258 High Ridge Trail,
6:30-8:30 p.m.,
Tuesdays
Central Fitchburg
Wildwood, 5649 Nutone St.,
5:30-7:30 p.m.,
Wednesdays

oversees the Sunday morning gatherings, as well as the missions within the community and helping the school. Both pastors rotate preaching. They liken their work relationship to a planting a garden; whereas Johnson is more of the visionary planner, Hobert helps nurture the growth that takes place. City Groups, which Hobert oversees, are gospel-centered communities of about 15-20 people that meet throughout the week at various locations in the city to share a meal and their lives with each other like a family.

“We try to put into practice what we talk about on Sunday and try to be a blessing to this community,” Hobert said about the groups. **Mission and vision** Redeemer City Church’s mission is: “Seeking to renew our City through the Gospel.” Johnson said that involves planting more churches, reaching out to the community, coming together to do mission projects and loving and serving neighbors well. As a church-planting church, its goal is to start another gospel-church somewhere in the Madison area where they see the need within three to five years. Johnson said they aren’t necessarily looking for a building with a steeple. It could be meeting in a movie theater, elementary school or park. “We just had a vision that, one of the things for (this city) to be a better place ... it just needs a whole lot of different communities that orbit around Jesus, and then, because of who Jesus is, that changes people’s lives,” Hobert said. However, right now it is just starting to spread its roots and the word at its new location. The church began its partnership with Chavez School even before it met there for services. “(We) do family empowerment over in the Pines neighborhood,” Johnson said. “We give away books to kids, have snacks and teach the parents how to help their children with their homework ... and get them connected with some local ministries and 501(c)(3)s (if) they have any other family needs.” They also help pay for and facilitate sending meals home with some children who attend the school on weekends or during the summer who, along with their families, may not have a lot of food to eat. “We’re just investing in our community and trying to build relationships within the Fitchburg and southwest Madison area,” Johnson said. “Our vision is just to see our community become a better place.”

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9:40 a.m.-Education for All Ages
10:45 a.m.-New Song Service

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SPORTS

Friday, November 14, 2014

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MWHS boys cross country



Photos by Jeremy Jones

Members of the Madison West boys cross country team celebrate winning the WIAA Division 1 state team title Saturday, Nov. 1, at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids. The Regents scored 77 points to claim the title.

Hacker, Regents race to state title

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Madison West senior Olin Hacker not only won his second WIAA Division 1 boys state cross country title Saturday, Nov. 1, but also helped the Regents to their second state team title in the past three years.

Hacker fell five seconds shy of former Stevens Point standout Chris Solinsky's state record at The Ridges Golf Course, winning the meet in 14 minutes, 59 seconds.

"I wanted to come out here and show people what I could do and what our team could do," Hacker said. "I think I did that."

Big Eight rival Ryan Nameth of Verona Area High School led Hacker at the mile marker before the West standout began to open up a sizeable lead.

"A little bit after the mile I got a bit of an advantage on him down a

hill," Hacker said.

From that point on he continued to hammer out a bigger and bigger gap, winning the race by 36 seconds over Nameth (15:35), who finished runner up for the second straight year.

"It's been an incredibly rivalry," Hacker said of Nameth. "We've pushed each other so much, and ran so much faster because of one another."

In winning his second title Hacker joined an elite group that includes his father Tim and uncle Jeff. His other uncle Bill also won a state title.

"To be able to come out here and race well one weekend two years in a row, it's just incredible," Hacker said. "To have my dad do that in front of me just makes it even more special."

Both his father and uncles were at The Ridges to cheer on Hacker.

"For me it's just really cool that they took time to come out here and



Madison West senior Olin Hacker repeated as the WIAA Division 1 state champion in 14 minutes, 59 seconds. Hacker's time was only five second off the state record by SPASH's Chris Solinsky.

watch me," he said. "That means a lot."

Not even an hour delay before the first race of the day (Division 3 boys

race) could slow Hacker.

"The delay didn't matter," he said. "It is what it is. Everybody had to deal with it. I felt great today."

"I've been preparing for this weekend for awhile and it all worked out."

Not to be overshadowed by Hacker's individual performance, the Regents placed all five varsity scorers in the top 26 to post a team-best 77 points. West averaged 16:09 per runner – 33 seconds faster than defending state champion Stevens Point, which finished with 80 points in second place. Arrowhead (178) rounded out the top three.

Hacker committed to the University of Wisconsin-Madison two evenings before state. He will join Division 2 state champion Ben Eiden-schink of Nekoosa/Port Edwards running for the Badgers next season.

"It's so cool," Hacker said. "I'm so excited for next year."

OHS boys soccer

Repeat bid falls short at state semifinal

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

Making its third straight state appearance, the 2013 WIAA Division 2 state champion Oregon High School boys soccer team came into this season with an expectation to keep the trophy.

But the D2 state semifinal Oct. 31 against Cedarburg at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee proved to be difficult as 45-mph wind gusts and 35-degree temperatures wreaked havoc on goal kicks and deep balls.

A late goal on a crowded play in the penalty box was all that was needed for Cedarburg to knock off Oregon, 1-0.

"They are solid team, and we knew it was going to be a tough one coming in," head coach Kevin May said. "We game-planned well, I thought, and I thought we executed well. We just fell short."

Oregon (17-2-2 overall) had a chance to take control in the 55th minute when senior Mitch Morhoff received a pass, setting up a 1-on-1 with Cedarburg junior goalie Nat Esten. Morhoff, who finished with two shots, drilled the ball and appeared to beat Esten. But the ball sailed over the net and out of play.

That miss came back to haunt Oregon in the 71st minute when junior Ben Hengst cleaned up a free kick by Sam Kornetzke after the ball deflected around in the penalty box.

"That is kind of the way soccer plays. You have to capitalize on your opportunities, and you have to make sure you get the ball out of the box to prevent any of those bad bounces like that," May said.

Oregon didn't give up there,

Turn to **OHS soccer**/Page 20

VAHS girls golf

Cats win first state title in VAHS history

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

Senior Jessica Reinecke came into the Oct. 14 WIAA Division 1 state meet with two individual titles, but that couldn't compare to a team state title.

While battling strong winds and heavy rain, Reinecke's bid for a third individual title slipped away – as she took fifth overall at University Ridge Golf Course with a 155 (74-81) – but that didn't matter in the end.

What did matter was that the Verona Area High School girls' golf team reigned supreme at state to win the first title in school history with a 648

(315-333).

"It is definitely a lot more special, just because we all worked hard together all season and all get it together and all get to celebrate together," Reinecke said. "It is really exciting."

It was a team effort all season, which included Big Eight, regional and sectional championships, as each girl was able to contribute with low scores when needed.

This time, it was juniors Bailey Smith and Emily Opsal, who tied for sixth and 17th, respectively.

Smith shot a 157 (76-81), tying her with Milton's CheyAnn Knudsen, and Opsal finished with a 164 (79-85).

"It started to hit me on the last hole, but it probably won't really hit me until tonight," Smith said. "We couldn't have done it without each other. We all just support each other, and it is really nice that if one of us has a bad day, we are there for each other and pick each other up."

The championship also hasn't set in for Opsal yet.

"After day one, I had built up a lot of confidence and was really feeling good about my swing," Opsal said. "I knew that, today, I just needed to put something doable out there."

Juniors Hanna Rebholz and

Turn to **VAHS golf**/Page 19



Photo by Anthony Iozzo

Senior Jessica Reinecke (middle) hoists up the 2014 WIAA Division 1 girls golf championship trophy Tuesday, Oct. 14, with head coach Bailey Hildebrandt (left) and junior teammate Emily Opsal (right). The Wildcats shot a 648 (315-333) to win the first girls golf state title in Verona Area High School history.

Girls cross country

Panthers bow out at sectional meet

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Oregon girls cross country was unable to place anyone inside the top 30 at the Oct. 25 WIAA Division 1 sectional meet in Verona. Instead, the Panthers settled for a 10th-place finish out of the 12 teams competing with 211 points. Oregon's top runner all season, Emma Hughes was shutdown for the meet due to injury. "She finished conference last week and hasn't run a step since then," head coach Doug Debroux said. "Her hips have been really tight. She tried dry needle therapy and a pool workout last Wednesday and just couldn't run normally. We decided to shut it down and get her healed up for track season. "It's more important that she can run for life than

today." That left junior Connie Hansen and sophomore Madelyn St. Claire to step up and take over as the team's top runner. Hansen finished a second ahead of St. Claire as the Panthers' top runner, placing 32nd overall in 22 minutes, 15 seconds. St. Clair crossed the finish line in 22:16 for 33rd place. Freshman Taylor Schmidt (22:33) finished 17 seconds later in 39th place. "We talked to the girls after conference last weekend," Debroux said. "I think the key to next season is what the girls do for the other nine-and-a-half months of the year. "To succeed at this level takes a lot of commitment year round. We train great and the girls work really hard during our two-and-a-half

Turn to **OHS girls**/Page 20

Boys cross country

Disappointing finish to season for Panthers

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

With a lot of illness going around, the Oregon boys cross country was unable to finish nearly as well as it had hoped Oct. 25 at the WIAA Division 1 Verona sectional meet. While the top two teams and top five individuals not on the state qualifying squads advanced on to the state meet in Wisconsin Rapids this weekend, no Panther was so lucky. Junior Chris Cutter stepped up to lead the team, taking 40th place in 18 minutes, 14 seconds. Cutter was the only one of five returning Panthers to run a faster time on the course than a year ago. He didn't score last season, finishing as the team's final runner. Senior Josh Christensen, who was Oregon's top finisher

Turn to **OHS boys**/Page 20

Girls swimming

Relay swims to podium

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Freshmen Carolyn Christofferson and Katie Reisdorf joined juniors Hannah Rau and Willow Kugel as the only members of the Oregon/Belleville girls swimming team to reach the medal podium Nov. 8. Competing in one of the fastest Division 1 sectionals in the state, Christofferson, Reisdorf, Rau and Kugel posted a time of 1 minute, 56.07

seconds for sixth place inside the Beloit Memorial High School natatorium. Though a season best by more than four seconds, it was not enough to earn a spot at this Saturday's Division 1 state meet as Waukesha North/Kettle Moraine earned the final 200 medley relay spot at state with a time of 1:52.06. The Panthers just missed the podium on the 200 free relay where sophomore Claire Candell joined Christofferson, Rau and Kugel to finish ninth with

a three-and-a-half second PR in 1:44.16. Oregon/Belleville returns every girl on the 200 medley and 200 free next year. Both relays dropped four seconds from last year and are close to school records. Christofferson added a 12th-place finish in the 50 free (25.33) and 14th-place finish on the 100 backstroke (1:03.15). Kugel finished 13th in the 50 free (25.6), though her top individual finish came in the

100 free where here two second PR of 55.65 was good for 11th. Rau cut nearly three seconds to place 17th in the 200 free (2:07.3). Junior Amber Cody (2:09.16) dropped more than seven-and-a-half seconds to finish tied for 18th in the 200 free. Reisdorf (2:25.08) went on to finish 14th in the 200 IM and 12th in the 100 breaststroke (1:12.06) with more than a four second PR.

Football

First playoff game since 2009 ends in loss

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Big, physical teams able to run the ball were a problem for the Oregon football team all year. On Oct. 24, the Panthers' defense once again struggled to get off the field as the host fourth-seeded Slinger Owls racked up 425 yards and four rushing touchdowns. Oregon, which hadn't been in the playoff since 2009, lost the Division 2 Level

1 football game 35-23. "We had some injuries that caused us to shuffle a couple of kids around to play new positions and they had two guys over 300 pounds on one side of the line," Panthers head coach Dan Kissling said. "Our kids played hard, and we moved the ball against them pretty good. We tried to keep our offense on the field as much as possible, but in the end they just wore us down." Slinger's Dwayne Corbitt finished with a team-high 144 yards and a

touchdown on 23 of the team's 51 carries. Corbitt was one of three Owl ball carriers to reach the century mark. Quarterback Jon Rauh accounted for another 110 yards on eight carries. Jacob Mason added a pair of rushing touchdowns to go along with 103 yards rushing, while Tanner Schmidt racked up 64 yards and a touchdown. Despite the final score, the Panthers took an early lead as Alex Duff hit a

Turn to **OHS football**/Page 19

Volleyball

Oregon goes out swinging in regional final loss

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

With only two seniors, the Oregon High School volleyball team has had its growing pains this season, but the conference tournament and regional performances were much different than earlier tournaments and matches. The ninth-seeded Panthers had a tough draw in the WIAA Division 1 Burlington sectional with the top-seeded Demons knocking out Oregon Saturday in the regional final

3-0 (8-25, 16-25, 12-25). But the Panthers made the final with an impressive 3-0 win (25-22, 25-22, 25-21) over Kenosha Indian Trail Thursday. And despite the season being over, Oregon has some momentum going into 2015 with 11 returners – juniors Sam Girard, Emily Lynch, Lexi Doering, Amanda Sagen, Kate Spierings and Anika Sande, sophomores Abbie Schofield, Cailyn Schmidt, Liz Andriacchi and Maggiue Simpson and freshman Alyssa

Milski. The Panthers will need to step up to replace seniors Riley Rosemeyer and Kena Hinker, who both played a significant role on the court this season. Oregon 3, Kenosha 0 Oregon traveled to Kenosha Indian Trail Oct. 23 and won three tough sets to make the regional final. Rosemeyer finished with 12 kills and three blocks, while Sagen picked up 30 assists and three aces.

Doering finished with 14 digs. Burlington 3, Oregon 0 The Panthers had a tough assignment Oct. 25 in the regional final at Burlington. The Demons had a first-round bye and are favorites to get back to state, and it showed in a sweep over Oregon. Rosemeyer finished with seven kills, an ace and two blocks. Sagen picked up 16 assists, while Doering had eight digs.

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Football

Surprising season ends at defending champs

EVAN HALPOP
Unified Newspaper Group

The Madison West High School football team's season may have ended against top-seeded Kimberly Oct. 24 in the WIAA Division 1 Level 1 Group C playoff game, but it doesn't mean the season was a disappointment.

With only 10 returning letterwinners this season, the Regents (5-5) were not picked to compete in the Big Eight Conference to start the season, but they upset Verona in week 1 and ended up 5-4, earning an eighth-seed in the playoffs.

And even though Kimberly, which won the 2013 Division 2 state title, crushed West 56-20, many of the players in that game will return for West – including junior running back Greg Wright, sophomore running back Terrence McNeal Jr., sophomore wide receiver Terrell Carey and sophomore quarterback Xavier Miller.

A season-ending loss to Janesville Parker (3-6) sealed West's fate for the playoff seeding, and it drew the toughest matchup of the group with Kimberly.

Kimberly scored 28 points in the first quarter before McNeal Jr. got the Regents on the board with a 58-yard touchdown run in the final 30 seconds of the first half.

West also added a 12-yard touchdown pass from Miller (12-for-25, 164 yards) to Carey at the start of the third quarter and a 10-yard touchdown pass from Miller to senior wide receiver Isaac Dennis with a minute left in the game.

Kimberly (12-0) is one win away from making state again, this time in



Photo by Evan Halpop

Madison West sophomore wide receiver Terrell Carey (25) snags the pass from sophomore quarterback Xavier Miller before being brought down at the 8-yard line by Janesville Craig senior defensive back Javen Murray (22) at Mansfield Stadium on Friday, October 10.

Division 1. It takes on Marquette at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at Titan Stadium at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

West 27, Craig 7

The Regents clinched a playoff spot in week 8 with a 27-7 win against Janesville Craig.

They scored 14 points in the first quarter and never looked back, including a 1-yard touchdown run by Miller (13 carries for 97 yards) and a 6-yard touchdown pass from Miller (3-for-6, 54 yards) to Dennis.

Junior Cameron Gorman added a 1-yard touchdown run in the second quarter, and Wright (24 carries for 126 yards) scored on a 15-yard run in the third.

Parker 20, West 13

West fell 20-13 at Janesville Parker on Oct. 17, hurting its chance at a higher seed in the playoffs.

Wright (14 carries for 60 yards) rushed for a 5-yard touchdown, and Miller (6-for-17, 146 yards) delivered a 43-yard touchdown to Dennis (113 yards).

Sports briefs

Several swimmers earn state berths

The Madison West High School girls swimming team got a handful of swimmers to the WIAA Division 1 state meet this past week.

Three relays qualified. The 200-yard medley relay (sophomore Maddy Sullivan, senior Paige Talerico, sophomore Emmie Mirus and senior Katie Feller) took fourth at sectionals in 1 minute, 50.33 seconds.

The 200-yard freestyle relay (sophomore Katie Cardwell, junior Sydney Higgins, junior Mary First and Feller) and the 400-yard freestyle relay (Mirus, Higgins, Feller and First) also made state. The 200 free relay took third at sectionals in 1:36.99, while the 400 free relay was first at sectionals in 3:31.92.

Feller, Higgins and First also qualified in the 50 free. First was fourth at sectionals in 24.4, while Higgins took sixth in 24.58. Feller was seventh in 24.67.

First added a berth in the 100-yard freestyle with a second-place (52.95) finish at sectionals. Mirus also made it in the 100-yard butterfly with a fourth-place finish in 58.39.

Junior Tess Lutz was the last individual qualifier with a sixth-place finish in the 500 free at sectionals. Lutz reached the finish line in 5:15.38.

West took fourth as a team with 302 points.

State begins at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Natatorium.

Lungova makes round of 32 at state tennis

West sophomore Karolina Lungova made the round of 32 at the WIAA Division 1 state girls tennis meet on Oct. 17.

Lungova defeated Whitefish Bay junior Gwennie O'Connell 6-2, 6-3 in the opening round, and she lost to Sun Prairie junior Dao Sysouvanh 6-2, 6-1 in the round of 32.

Boys soccer falls in sectional semifinal

The top-seeded Madison West boys soccer team fell 3-0 to fifth-seeded Kettle Moraine in the WIAA Division 1 boys soccer sectional semifinal on Oct. 23.


West won the regional title with a 9-1 win over 16th-seeded West Allis Central on Oct. 14 and a 6-0 win over eighth-seeded Madison East on Oct. 16.

Kiernan finishes 125th at state cross country

Junior Laura Kiernan finished 125th in 20:32.14 in the WIAA Division 1 state girls cross country meet on Nov. 1.

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Boys cross country



Photo by Jeremy Jones

Senior Ryan Nameth takes an early lead Nov. 1 at the WIAA Division 1 state cross country meet at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids. Nameth finished second overall for the second season in 15 minutes, 35 seconds.

Settling for silver

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Verona Area High School senior Ryan Nameth set the goal of winning a state championship at the WIAA Division 1 state cross country meet three years ago. “My freshman year of track and my sophomore year of cross country were

definitely years where I thought, “the sky’s the limit,” he said. “Winning a state title has been my goal ever since.” Racing at almost any other time in Wisconsin history Nameth could have easily found himself accomplishing that goal.

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Girls swimming

Cats win first sectional title

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Verona Area/Mount Horeb girl’s swimming team qualified at least one swimmer in every event on its way to the first Division 1 sectional title in program history on Nov. 8. The Wildcats crowned five sectional champions inside the Beloit Memorial High School natatorium for a total of 348 points – 22 more than Big Eight Conference rival

Middleton. All-in-all, the Wildcats will have eight girls competing in 11 individual events plus all three relays at this Saturday’s state meet. Taking the past four years off from coaching the girls team, head coach Bill Wuergler wasn’t sure what the squad was capable of this season. “When I took the job, I had no idea they could be this good,” he said. “They’ve worked extremely hard all

season and that’s what you’re seeing this week and last week.” Already with five state championships and three state records under her belt, junior Beata Nelson once again qualified for this Saturday’s WIAA Division 1 state meet inside the UW Natatorium in another four events. Nelson finished more than three seconds ahead of the field on her way to a pool record time of 53.99 in the

100-yard butterfly at sectionals. The defending state champion in the event, Nelson posted the fastest state qualifying time. Arrowhead junior Megan Doty was second with a 54.27. Also the defending state champion in the 100 backstroke, Nelson posted a state-best qualifying standard of 54.08 over Waukesha South/Mukwonago junior Alicia

Turn to **VAHS swim**/Page 20

Girls tennis

Cats’ season ends in round of 16 at state

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Verona Area High School senior Steph Keryluk and junior Greta Schmitz helped the Wildcats reach the round of 16 at No. 1 doubles of the WIAA Division 1 individual state tournament for the third straight year On

Oct. 17-18. It was the second straight time Keryluk reached the round of 16 at No. 1 doubles. The 14th seed entering the state tournament, Keryluk and Schmitz played all the way to the third round where they fell 6-2, 6-1 against third-seeded Nicolet seniors Michelle Margolies

and Erin Wathen (32-4). “It’s exciting, but I feel like we could have won that match,” Keryluk said. “It’s frustrating. I think we just got nervous and never really got over that.” Verona came out and got down early in both sets, trailing 4-1 before Nicolet closed out the match in straight sets.

Turn to **VAHS tennis**/Page 20

Volleyball

Season goes down to wire at sectionals

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

The ebbs and flows of the WIAA Division 1 sectional 3 semifinal on Oct. 30 between Verona Area High School and Sun Prairie rocked between

student sections, benches and both sides of the net.

The Wildcats stole the momentum and held a three-point lead late in game 4 at Middleton High School, but the Cardinals clawed back to force a fifth set – eventually leading to a heartbreaking 3-2 (22-25, 25-19, 26-24, 19-25, 12-15) loss for Verona. “We worked really hard for this game, and the girls adapted well to their attack and offense,” head coach Kelly Annen said. “I am so proud of them for the hard work they put in and staying mentally tough and not getting down on themselves.”

Sun Prairie looked to be the team in control even after Verona tied the match at one game apiece. The Cardinals’ middles were getting involved – unlike the first time the two teams met in the regular

season that ended in a Verona sweep – and they were dictating the game with their serves – unlike the Wildcats’ conference tournament win.

But Verona made some adjustments and jumped out to a 13-5 lead in game three. Sun Prairie cut the deficit to 15-10 but all still seemed in the favor of the Wildcats.

That is when the Cardinals middles wreaked havoc on the Verona defense. A 9-2 run was led by ferocious hits that fell beyond the reach of diving Wildcats or just hit them at an odd angle. Despite senior libero Samantha Kolpek finishing with 30 digs, she and the rest of Verona were having trouble receiving some of the hits.

The Cardinals eventually jumped out to a 24-22 lead and looked primed to go ahead in the match, but that is when the momentum changed

again. Each point Verona scored caused the student section and the Wildcats’ bench to rumble the gym until it led to a 26-24 win.

“Our communication was turning point for us when we were able to come back from behind,” Annen said.

Junior Kylie Schmaltz (13 kills) picked up a kill, and senior Morgan Schmitz added an ace (three aces) to cut Verona’s deficit to 13-12 forcing the final Sun Prairie timeout, but the Cardinals finished the match with two straight points after the break to move on.

Junior Victoria Brisack finished with 41 assists – and now has over 2,100 in her career – and three blocks, while senior Jessica Coyne added 13 kills. Junior Karly Pabich added seven kills.

Football

Wildcats’ season ends in Level 1 playoffs

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

A chance to win in the final possession is all the Verona Area High School football team could have asked for Friday in a WIAA Division 1 Level 1 playoff at Madison La Follette.

The Wildcats and Lancers exchanged leads or were tied five times, but it was Madison La Follette that scored the game-winning touchdown after a 33-yard touchdown run by Darold Thomas with just over 6 minutes left in the game.

The Wildcats needed a touchdown and began the next drive on their own 48-yard line. After a few plays, the game came down to a fourth-and-12 on the Lancers’ 23. Going to the end zone, senior quarterback Noah Roberts was intercepted by junior defensive back Braden Jorenby and the game ended in a 26-21 loss.

“It is a 4 seed vs. a 5 seed, and this is the way it should look like. The last team with the ball should win,” head coach Dave Richardson said. “We had that opportunity, and I am not sure if we didn’t fight for the ball or it was under-thrown too much for a fight, but fourth-and-12 is tough.”

Verona did force a fumble with La Follette trying to kneel, and it looked like it recovered. But the play was ruled dead by a delay of game

penalty on the Lancers, ending the Wildcats’ (6-4 overall) season.

“It was a really good football game, and I am really proud of our guys,” Richardson said. “La Follette executed, and we executed. Both teams did what they needed to do, and it came down to who had the ball last. We didn’t make a play at the end, and they did.”

Verona grabbed a 21-14 lead in the third quarter after a 4-yard touchdown by senior running back Eric Schmid. However, that lead was made possible by two big defensive plays in the first half.

Junior linebacker Sam Favour recovered a fumble in the first quarter, which led to a 36-yard touchdown pass from Roberts to senior running back Cameron Tindall early in the second.

La Follette tied the game at 14 on a 4-yard run by senior running back Cahleel Copus and later had the ball again on the Verona 22-yard line with time winding down in the first half.

Senior defensive back Case Baio then picked off senior quarterback Jordan Carlson in the end zone, and the half came to end in a 14-14 tie.

“We are pretty stout in the run, and earlier on we weren’t so stout on the pass but that improved,” Richardson said. “Our defense has kept us in all of our games in the last six with this one included.”

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OHS football: Oregon finishes 6-4 overall

Continued from page 16

22-yard field goal early in the first quarter to give Oregon an early lead. Mason, however, helped Slinger take a 21-10 into halftime.

Rauh attempted four passes, completing two, including a 10-yard touchdown pass to Zac Nowatzki to put Slinger back on top.

Junior quarterback Trent Ricker hit on 6-of-13 passes for 193 yards, including a 53-yard touchdown pass to B.J. Buckner for a 10-7 lead in the second quarter. He was picked off twice.

Oregon's Josh Sromovsky had one catch for 43 yards. He added 11 yards rushing on four carries. Duff hauled in a pair of catches for another 53 yards.

Running back Matt Yates paced the Panthers' ground game with 70 yards on 15 carries. Peter Kissling scored on one of his four carries, accounting for 21 yards rushing.

Oregon finished the season 6-4 overall, while Slinger improved to Slinger 8-2 and will play at top-seeded DeForest this Friday.

It was the Panthers' first playoff game since 2009.

"It was huge for our program, our kids had a great offseason which our staff preached to them that was the start," Kissling said. "We were close last year in a couple of games, almost beating Mount Horeb and taking the second place team to overtime in Fort Atkinson. This year kind of got us over the edge, our kids got much needed confidence and played like they could beat anyone."

Despite losing 22 seniors this season, Kissling thinks the program turned a corner this season.

"Our conference from top to bottom is pretty solid. I know the teams we beat are going to get better, but our kids had a little taste of success and they will be eager to continue where they left off," Kissling said.

Oregon 28, Milton 12

Oregon jumped out to a three-touchdown lead through two quarters Oct. 10 as the Panthers defeated the host Milton Red Hawks 28-12 in the team's Badger South Conference finale.



Photo by Jeremy Jones

Junior wide receiver Josh Sromovsky breaks up a pass that was nearly intercepted by DeForest defensive back Hunter Wilson (12) during the second half on Oct. 17. Sromovsky caught one pass, a 3-yard touchdown grab, in the 19-13 loss.

Sromovsky accounted for 47 yards rushing and a first-quarter touchdown in the win.

Yates and Buckner added touchdown runs of 1 and 18 yards to give the Panthers a three-touchdown lead going into halftime.

Oregon's third score came after Marcus Tobias blocked a punt. The Panthers scored a couple of plays later.

"Our defense played the best game of the season," Kissling said. "They were on the field a lot in the second half, but they came to play."

Milton scored twice in the second half as Howard Greene rushed for 73 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries.

Ricker attempted six passes, completing half for 26 yards. Red Hawks senior quarterback Tyler Westrick completed 12-of-24 for 98 yards and an interception.

He also rushed for 74 yards and a 10-yard rushing touchdown in the second half.

DeForest 19, Oregon 13

Oregon allowed 19 unanswered points through three-and-a-half quarters before mounting a fourth quarter

comeback Oct. 17 in a Badger Conference crossover game.

In the end, the Panthers didn't have enough offense to knock off the visiting DeForest Norskies, falling 19-13.

Norskies junior running back Jadon Sackman, who has carried the Norskies' offense all season, rushed for 188 yards and a 5-yard, first-quarter touchdown on 37 carries.

Junior quarterback Connor True completed 8-of-10 passes for 84 yards and an interception, while adding a 1-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

True connected with junior Tyler Blum for an 11-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Yates carried the ball 13 times for 123 yards, including a 59-yard run to setup Oregon's first touchdown.

Ricker brought the Panthers back with a pair of fourth quarter touchdown passes, including a 3-yard strike to Sromovsky in the back of the end zone.

Ricker later found Buckner on a short pass. Buckner caught two passes in the loss, including a shot pass he turned into a 45-yard touchdown. He finished with 53 yards on two catches.

VAHS XC: Nameth second for second year

Continued from page 18

Defending state champion Madison West senior Olin Hacker, however, shaved nearly a minute off last season's time, winning his second title Nov. 1 in 14 minutes, 59 seconds.

Hacker fell five seconds shy of the course record of Stevens Point's Chris Solinsky. His state title gave the family seven cross country state titles.

Nameth, who led at the mile marker, finished seconds 16 faster than last season, but was only two seconds ahead of his third-place time as a sophomore in 15:35.

"There are a lot of little things I wish I could change, but I ran pretty hard," Nameth said. "I wanted a state championship really bad."

"It's disappointing to not see that, but at the same time, he only made me better and that's only going to open doors for both of us."

Hacker and Division 2 state champion Ben Eidschink of Nekoosa/Port Edwards both announced that they would be running for UW-Madison next fall.

Nameth, who wants to remain within a couple hours of home, has not made a decision on where he wants to go.

He said he is considering UW Madison, Marquette, UW-Milwaukee and Loyola University (Chicago).

For Nameth it's been a blessing and almost a curse to run as the same time as one of the state's top runners in Wisconsin history.

"It's been intense,"

Nameth said of the rivalry. "Maybe a little overwhelming. It kind of distracts from regular life almost, but it's been nice to have a really strong runner to race against."

Not even an hour's delay of the day's first race for frost could faze Hacker, who broke away from the pack at the mile mark.

"The delay, it doesn't matter. It is what it is, everybody has to deal with it. It doesn't make a difference," he said. "I felt great today. I've been preparing for this weekend for awhile. It all worked out."

Hacker added to his family legacy joining his father, Tim, and uncle, Jeff Hacker, as two-time individual champions. His uncle, Bill Hacker, also won an individual title.

The Regents went on to place all five of its varsity scorers in the top 26 to finish with a meet-best 77 points – 80 ahead of runner-up Stevens Point.

Arrowhead (178) rounded out the top three, while Madison La Follette finished one point back in fourth.

Despite losing Hacker and Nameth, the Big Eight should continue to be well-represented at state next year as sophomores Finn Gessner of Madison La Follette and Nate Farrell of Janesville Craig finished fifth and eighth.

"Ryan's consistency up at the top level all the way from his sophomore year on puts stands as a pretty good mark," Marks said. "Even though he doesn't have a No. 1 to show for it, I think that alone puts him down in the annals for being one of the top runners in the state ever."

VAHS golf: Girls win WIAA Division 1 state championship, Reinecke takes fifth overall

Continued from page 15

Melissa Biesmann also had good rounds.

Rebholz finished 26th overall with a 172 (86-86), while Biesmann – who didn't have her score count for the team – was tied for 32nd overall with a 178 (86-92).

There were 78 golfers in the Division 1 tournament.

"They were so mentally tough and fought for every stroke, but they just stayed focused and stayed tough and put it all out there for the team," head coach Bailey Hildebrandt said. "They are a team that I knew could do it, and I am so excited for them."

And the girls did it all with some of the worst weather of the golf season. Chaotic sheets of rain fell in 35-mph winds for much of the day Tuesday, and Monday was no better with heavy rain falling as the Wildcats finished out the round.

The fairways and greens felt like walking on wet sponges, and umbrellas were popping inside out and breaking with every other wind gust.

"In those conditions, I did not think we would hold onto those scores on the first day," Hildebrandt said. "To shoot our best all

season in the pouring rain says a lot about these girls and just how tough they are."

Now, the Wildcats get to celebrate a state championship as a team, but this is the end of an era for Reinecke, who graduates in

the spring.

Reinecke plans on continuing her golf career at the University of Wisconsin- Madison, but just because she won't be playing golf for the Wildcats anymore doesn't mean Verona can't repeat as

champions in 2015.

"I love the depth of this team and the hard work, and I know that a lot of them will play a lot this offseason," Hildebrandt said. "We'll see, but I think we are still going to be a competitive team next

year."

Hartland Arrowhead finished state runner-up with a 656 (319-337), while Middleton took third with a 670 (320-350).

Middleton's Loren Skiba won the state individual title with a 147 (69-78),

while Milwaukee Homestead's Anika Hitt was second with a 151 (74-77).

Arrowhead's Allison Chomniak was third with a 152 (76-76), and Brookfield Central's Grace Dunn took fourth with a 153 (77-76).

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OHS girls: Hansen takes 32nd

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month season, but so do a lot of teams.” Juniors Caity Lucas and Emily Zernick crossed the finish line three seconds apart, taking 53rd and 54th place in 23:13 and 23:16, respectively. Junior Bree Paddock and senior Hannah McAnulty also competed but did not score. The last time Oregon didn’t advance at least an individual to the state meet was 2009. “We only had three seniors this season, including (Anna or Hannah) who joined as a junior,” Debroux

said. “They did a great job, but there’s no question that the experience our juniors got this year will make a difference next season. The more leadership you have, the more it can only help you.” Two-time defending sectional champion Nikki Staffen of Stoughton dropped back to fourth place, but helped the Vikings once again win the sectional to return to this Saturday’s state meet as a team. Stoughton finished with a team-best 57 points – 18 ahead of their Badger South conference rival Fort Atkinson Blackhawks (75). Both teams moved on to state.

OHS boys: Cutter takes 40th

Continued from page 16

all season, ran 18 seconds slower than last season to finish 41st overall in 18:16. Junior Ben Janes and senior Ryan Barry covered the course in nearly identical times, placing 45th and 46th in 18:32 and 18:34, respectively. Fellow senior Ben Vogt finished 56th overall in 18:53 as the Panthers final varsity scorer. Sophomores Joshua Klahn and Morgan Ballesteros also competed but did not score. Christensen, Vogt and

Ballesteros were all battling illness. “On the bright side, four of our top seven today will be back next year,” head coach Erik Haakenson said. “Our two juniors (Cutter and Janes) had their best race of the season and looked very strong. Our sophomores Josh and Morgan also raced well against the competition.” Oregon, which hasn’t had an individual state qualifier since hosting the meet in 2011, finished ninth out of the 12 teams competing with 228 points.

VAHS tennis: Top 16 at state

Continued from page 18

“I’m happy with how far we got, but I feel like we could have done more,” Schmitz said. “It will be a lot different playing without Steph next year.” Head coach Mark Hapfel wasn’t about to look over what Keryluk and Schmitz accomplished this season, however. “Steph and Greta had a really nice season,” Hapfel said. “They are physically the most talented doubles team that I have coached.” They were also the first to be seeded to make it into the round of 16. “The last couple of years we had an upset to get into the round of 16,” Hapfel said. “The only teams to defeat Steph and Greta

(Middleton, Green Bay Southwest, Waunakee and Nicolet) this season were all seeded ahead of them at the state tournament.” The Wildcat upperclassmen opened the tournament with 6-4, 6-2 victory over Lake Geneva Badger senior Gillian Suhre and junior Joanne Walczynski (23-3). Badger held at 5-4 in the first set before Verona closed out the set on its serve. Keryluk held to push the Wildcats ahead 5-2 in the second before Verona broke to close out the match. Schmitz and Keryluk went on to win 6-1, 6-4 over Appleton East senior Olympia Mathiaporinam and sophomore Parker Huntstiger (16-11).

OHS soccer: Panthers win third straight sectional

Continued from page 15

however, but going against the wind hurt the strength of the Panthers’ speed and passing. Oregon ended up with nine shots on goal, but most of those came in the first half. The Panthers just couldn’t get anything past Esten, who finished with nine saves. Oregon had seven corners in the first half, and it was able to get plenty of shots toward the net. But the wind made shots sail over the goal. The Panthers were able to keep pressuring Cedarburg in the first half, because the wind made it nearly impossible for a goal kick to go past mid-field. May said there could have been a little extra pressure to score in the first half with the win at Oregon’s back. “We definitely wanted to press a little bit harder, which we did, and I thought we had some great opportunities. But their keeper made some pretty solid saves,” May said. “But I don’t think that affected us. I was worried at halftime thinking we were going to go in a defensive mode, but we played better to start the second half than we did to start the game.” Senior goalie Dan Domrowski finished with four saves for Oregon. Cedarburg (14-6-4) lost 2-0 in the state final against



Photo by Anthony Iozzo

Senior Mitch Morhoff runs over to thank fans for their support on Oct. 31 following a 1-0 loss in a WIAA Division 2 state semifinal against Cedarburg at Uihlein Soccer Park. The Panthers finished the season 17-2-2. Brookfield East. Oregon 4, Elkhorn 0 It didn’t take long to realize the Oregon High School boys soccer team was going to be the last team standing in its sectional for the third straight season on Oct. 25. The defending WIAA Division 2 champion and top-seeded Panthers jumped on Elkhorn – seeded No. 2 in the bottom regional – early and often in a 4-0 win at Wilmot Union High School in the sectional final. Three of those goals came in the first half, including two by junior Zach Hanson. “Everybody just wanted to go back to state and go to Milwaukee,” Hanson said. “That was our goal, and we obviously achieved that today.” The Panthers wanted to

VAHS swim: Cats advance to state in every event

Continued from page 18

untapped potential.” Nelson collected her fourth sectional title as part of the 200 free relay along with sophomore Maizie Seidl, senior Shelby Rozeboom and Larsen. The relay (1:35.95) enters state seeded only behind Arrowhead (1:35.87). Earlier in the meet, top-seeded Seidl shaved more than a second-and-a-half off her season best in the 100 free to post a pool record 52.81. Her time tied her for the 10th fastest seed entering state. Despite finishing runner-up in the 200 free (1:54.88) to Sun Prairie sophomore Rachel Powers’ pool record 1:52.91, Seidl’s time actually earned her a higher seed as she enters state as the eighth seed. The night before, freshman Maggie Nunn became the first state-qualifying diver in program history for the Wildcats on Friday, scoring 436.2 points to win the sectional title.

Even without the team’s fastest swimmer, the Wildcats’ 400 free relay of Seidl, Rozeboom, Larsen and Sophie Henshue finished fifth overall with a season best 3:36.64 Saturday to earn the 11th seed at state. All three relays posted season-bests. Rozeboom finished runner-up in the 50 free (24.12) to Madison Memorial sophomore Tory Center, who posted a pool record 23.62. Rozeboom is seeded seventh at state, while Center earned the top seed. Junior Julia Ver Voort shaved five seconds off her previous best 200 individual medley time to finish runner-up to Janesville Craig freshman Erin Donagan in 2:10.86. She is seeded 11th. Henshue dropped more than four seconds in the 200 free to finish fourth overall in 1:56.49. She also qualified for state in the 500 free, posting

more than a nine second PR to finish third in 5:12.33. Larsen stopped the 100 breaststroke clock with more than a two second season-best 1:07.8 – good for fourth place and a state qualifying spot. Seymour earned the last spot on the 100 fly podium, taking eighth place in 59.18. her time was good enough for earn the 22nd seed at this weekend’s state tournament. The 45th Annual Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Girls Swimming and Diving Championships will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 14-15, at the Natatorium on the campus of the University of Wisconsin in Madison. The Division 1 diving competition is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, with the swimming events to begin at 3 p.m. Ticket prices for the meet are \$6 and \$1 for children 6 years old and under.



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A salute to service

A Veterans Day recognition, featuring speakers and songs from the Fitchburg Singers and students from Eagle School, was held at the Fitchburg Senior Center on Nov. 11.

Left, Korean War veteran Jim Klahr, of Fitchburg, presents the colors at the start of the program.

Below, those in attendance applaud for the veterans who stood up during the program.

Top right, John Scocos, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs secretary, talks to the crowd as the invited guest speaker during the program.

Bottom right, Vietnam War veteran Tom Gomach, a Purple Heart recipient, speaks to the crowd after being honored for his service.

Photos by Samantha Christian



Fitchburg Singers going strong after three decades

Koster has served as ensemble director for past 10 years

BILL LIVICK
Unified Newspaper Group

A group of more than 20 senior citizens, the Fitchburg Singers have been entertaining audiences with the music of “their era” for close to 30 years.

Doris Koster has been involved about half that time – first as a regular member and then, for the past decade, as the ensemble’s director.

“My late-husband was a concert violinist, and I’ve sung all my life,” Koster said in an interview with the Star. “A lot of people tell me that even though I’m not a trained director, I make it fun.

“I guess I’m an entertainer. I dance around and I get the audience involved.”

She’s quick to add that she has “the most wonderful group of singers who perform for the most wonderful group of listeners. It’s the music of their era.”

Early encounter

When Koster first encountered the group, they were called the Fitchburg Elder Singers. That was in September 1986. She’s pretty sure the singers had been around at least a few years before she discovered them.

After her brief flirtation with the group, Koster turned her attention to other things for the next decade. Then one day in 1996, she was at the Fitchburg Senior Center and met former director Sue Sheets, who invited her to sing with the group.

Sheets was in the process of reviving the group after attendance had dropped and it was in decline.



Photos by Samantha Christian

Doris Koster directs the Fitchburg Singers during the Veterans Day ceremony at Fitchburg Senior Center.

Koster joined the group for a casual performance, which she found “enjoyable.”

At the time, the singers performed only a few times a year, usually for events related to the holidays.

Sheets was the group’s organizer, but it had no real director, Koster remembered.

In 1997, Koster got the idea to write a program about the state of Wisconsin for the group.

“It was just beginning of the minting of the new quarters, and I thought it would be appropriate to do some state songs,” she recalled.

She gathered information for an introduction to the state and its official song. That was the first year the Fitchburg Singers were “actually good enough to sing for the Senior Games,” held that year in Belleville, Koster said.

She remembers the event as “a revelation” and a “wake-up call for the singers.”

Their performance at the Senior Games showed Koster and the rest of the group that they had some real potential. But they also realized that they were unpolished.

“While we were thrilled to sing, we didn’t seem prepared for the scene,” she explained. “Other groups looked like they belonged together. In contrast, we looked like a hodgepodge of color – albeit patriotic colors.”

That led the group to go in a slightly more serious direction. Members began wearing more uniform attire – black bottoms and white long-sleeve tops, and scarves that matched the program for the women, while the men wear bow ties.

Next step

Koster recalls that the group changed again when a new member joined – Carol Nimlos. Together, Nimlos and Koster began to get involved in writing-themed programs for the

singers. The first was called Nostalgia.

Around 2002, Koster emerged as the group’s official director, and Nimlos served as co-director.

Together they planned more performances, each with a specific theme.

“In 2005, we did a patriotic program, singing songs from different parts of the country,” Koster said. “We always did a little introduction to the program.”

Around the same time, the group recruited a new pianist – Carolyn White.

“She is a gift on loan from God,” Koster exclaimed. “She is unbelievable; an amazing pianist. This group would not be the same without her.”

Today

The Fitchburg Singers have been performing consistently for the past decade or so. Koster said they do up to 20 shows per year, mostly at senior centers, churches, assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Most years they perform at the annual Senior Games, but had to skip it this year because of some health issues.

Sadly, Nimlos died a few months ago, leaving Koster to write the programs and direct the group, while White accompanies on piano.

She noted that not all members sing on every song.

“We have duets and solos and things like that,” Koster said. “Our singers come from all over Dane County.”

The Fitchburg Singers typically rehearse for the first three months of the year and begin performing in April. They continue to perform through June, take a break for the rest of the summer and return to their schedule sometime in September and October.

Koster said after all these years, she continues to enjoy directing the group.

“It’s wonderful to direct,” she said. “I’m not normal when I direct because I dance around. I love music and have always loved music. And this is just a wonderful group.”



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Costumed runners participate in the Ghoulish Gallop at McKee Farms Park.



Fall festivities

Fitchburg had plenty of fall activities throughout October, including the Ghoulish Gallop run and walk and pumpkin festival Saturday, Oct. 18, and annual trick-or-treating Oct. 31.

The 20th annual Ghoulish Gallop, left, drew more than 360 participants at McKee Farms Park and also featured kids' activities and costume contests. The event benefits the South Central Wisconsin Housing Foundation.

That same afternoon, Oak Bank hosted the 14th Annual Great Pumpkin Give Away on Saturday, Oct. 18, featuring free pumpkins, activities, carriage rides and special mascot appearances. All donations were given to Madison4KIDS, a nonprofit organization that aims to help kids achieve a better quality of life.

Two weeks later, kids and their parents braved the cold to send a scare up the spines of passersby and get their share of sweet treats during Halloween trick-or-treating.



At right, Antonio Slaton, 13, and his father, Kewan, wave to traffic dressed as father-son bandits at the corner of Post Road and Traceway Drive.

Photos by Samantha Christian



Above, Savion Mitchell, 3, and his dog Tango are set to trick-or-treat along Eggiman Road on Halloween.

Left, Jonathan Murray, 16, puts the finishing touches on Halloween decorations along Hartwicke Drive.

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Above, Ryan Brand, 2, of Middleton, eyes up a pumpkin while his grandpa Christopher Brand and grandma Michelle Brand, of Fitchburg, follow and try to fix his hat. Below, friends Charlotte Kobylarz, 7, and Alice McCann, 5, of Madison, show off a big pumpkin they hoisted together.

Transportation update

Verona Road traffic shift completed

Beltline work, study underway

MARK IGNATOWSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

While some work along Verona Road has eased, drivers can expect continued congestion along the corridor and the Beltline.

Crews will be working to add extra lanes along the Beltline between Whitney Way and Verona Road, including a new bridge over Verona Road. Work is expected to last through fall 2016, with breaks during the winter.

Earlier this month, crews shifted traffic to the respective north and south lanes over a new Atticus Way intersection. The frontage road system is supposed to provide safer access to businesses along the corridor while allowing through traffic to move, as well.

In preparation for upcoming phases, some traffic lanes – such as the north-bound entrance to the Beltline – have been shifted temporarily.

Weekly project updates are posted to the Fitchburg Star website. Other Wisconsin Department of Transportation updates are posted on the project’s website veronaroadproject.wi.gov and on the project Facebook page “WI Verona

If you go

What: Beltline study meeting
When: 2:30-4:30 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19
Where: Boys & Girls Club Gym, 4619 Jenewein Road
Info: madisonbeltline.dot.wi.gov

Road Project.” A video drive-through of the latest traffic patterns can be found online.

Beltline study

In addition to the current construction, a long-term Beltline study is up for review with a public meeting slated for Fitchburg later this month.

WisDOT study evaluates a range of potential strategies that address traffic issues along the Beltline corridor. Strategies that will be presented at the meetings include:

- Bus Rapid Transit
- Potential rail options
- Additional Beltline buses
- A north Mendota corridor
- A south reliever corridor
- Beltline Improvements

The first of several public meetings were held starting Nov. 11. Two meetings are planned for the Fitchburg area Wednesday, Nov. 19, at

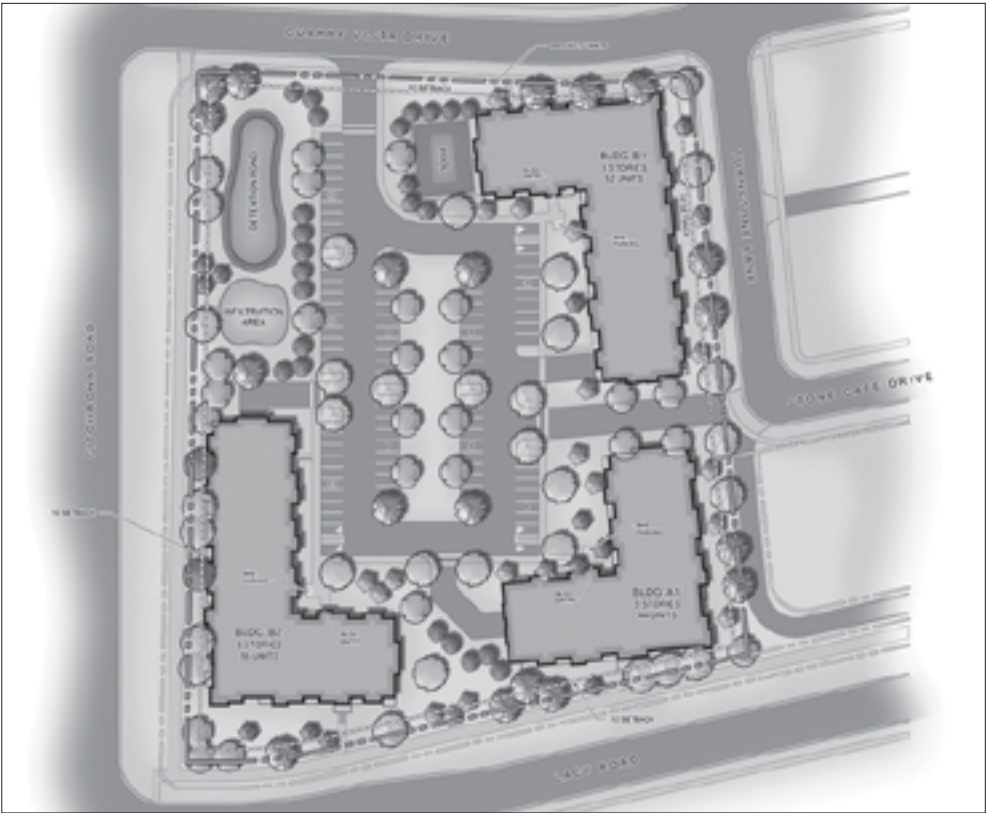
the Boys & Girls Club Gym, 4619 Jenewein Road. Meetings will be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m. with a presentation at 3 p.m. and from 5:30-8 p.m. with a presentation at 6 p.m.

Interested persons may attend anytime during the allotted meeting time to review displays and other study materials, ask questions and provide comments. WisDOT project staff will be available to explain the study process and answer questions.

WisDOT officials said in a news release that the study looks at past strategies for the Beltline and analyzes how different solutions might work for current and future traffic management.

“We encourage the public to attend a meeting to learn about the preliminary findings and provide us with insights and feedback about this important corridor,” said Larry Barta, WisDOT project manager. “It’s important to note that these are not the final recommendations; rather, these are preliminary findings that we want feedback on as we continue to refine our work in advance of the environmental impact study.”

Information about the Beltline study can be found at: madisonbeltline.dot.wi.gov.



Map courtesy Fiduciary Real Estate Development, Inc.

A set of three multi-family building along Lacy and Fitchrona roads would have access to Fitchrona Road via the new Quarry Vista Road.

Multi-family buildings up for review

Quarry Vista lots would add 152 units

MARK IGNATOWSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

A set of three multi-family building along Lacy and Fitchrona roads will be up for review later this month.

The city’s Plan Commission and Common Council will have a chance to weigh in on general implementation plans for 152 multi-family units proposed by Fiduciary Real Estate Development, Inc. The Plan Commission meets Tuesday, Nov. 18, and the council could take action the following week.

Documents submitted to the city show that the development would be phased in starting this coming

If you go

What: Planning Commission meeting
When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18
Where: Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road
Info: fitchburgwi.gov

summer, with expected completion by spring 2016. Market conditions would determine the schedule.

The project calls for three, three-story buildings with a mix of studio, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units. Some units would have dens. The average size will be about 875 square feet and rent is projected to average \$1,150 per month.

According to the plan submitted Oct. 28, parking

would be provided in the middle of the lot, along with underground parking. The plan calls for 1.5 parking stalls per unit, as opposed to the city standard of two stalls per unit.

“We believe that providing this level of parking will be appropriate for this project, will allow the site to have less impervious area and will minimize the visual impact of surface parking lots on the site and the surrounding areas,” the developer said in documents submitted to the city.

The plan submitted last month shows buildings containing 55-, 52- and 44-unit buildings with access provided via Quarry Vista Drive, a new road that would intersect with Fitchrona Road north of Lacy Road.

Trampoline park coming to King James Way

MARK IGNATOWSKI
Unified Newspaper Group

Fitchburg’s northwest side could soon have an indoor “trampoline park.”

California-based Rockin’ Jump plans to open the franchise amusement center on King James Way as early as February, according to documents submitted to the city.

Aaron Bakken, who works as the company’s head of franchise marketing and sales, will be the franchise’s primary operator. He told the Plan Commission that the project had been well-received by the Jamestown Neighborhood Association

The business plans to offer about 10,000 square feet of trampoline-based activities. The submission shows a dodgeball area, basketball courts, a foam pit and a large open jump space. The 20,000-square-foot building will house party rooms, lockers, vending areas and a small cafe for patrons to purchase meals for parties.

The city’s Plan

Commission approved a conditional use permit for the business last month. The site is currently leased to a Halloween costume store, but will be renovated to be used as the new trampoline park.

The company’s trampoline parks are aimed at users between 8 and 16 years old, but there are attractions and events for all ages. The business plans to be open from 2-9 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays. Rockin’ Jump plans be open to all users most of the time, but special age groups – such as toddlers – would have access to the equipment during certain times of the day.

Bakken said the company would provide between 40 and 50 part-time jobs for young workers.

“Rockin’ Jump is proud to offer young people an opportunity to learn valuable customer service, safety and consumer interaction skills that will prepare them for their professional careers far better than a typical retail or food

service job,” Bakken wrote to the commission.

Two full-time managers will also be hired.

Rockin’ Jump plans to take occupancy and begin renovation as early as Nov. 10.



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Senior Center briefs

Volunteers needed

The Fitchburg Senior Center has openings for driver escorts.

Driver escorts are volunteers who drive clients, who are no longer able to drive, to and from doctor appointments. Flexible schedules are available.

For more information, contact Mandi Miller at 270-4293.

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Public works

Celebrate holidays with a green twist

The holiday season is a time to celebrate, give thanks, decorate, feast and exchange gifts with family and friends.

Unfortunately, in the process, we typically consume a lot of resources and generate extra waste. The average American increases their household solid waste by 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Enjoying your holiday season doesn't require draining your wallet or filling up a landfill.

Reducing the amount of gifts and packaging can go a long way to being greener. Shopping locally can cut down on time and gas and helps keep money in the local community.

The city website, fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste has recycling info and tips to be even greener this holiday season:

And when the holiday lights burn out, remember to recycle old light strings at Fitchburg City Hall between Nov. 3 and Jan. 30, 2015. A special cart is now available 24 hours/day in the City Hall Lobby, 5520 Lacy Road.

North Stoner OK'd, Northeast pushed back

CARPC was set to vote on controversial subject this week

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

One of the City of Fitchburg's new neighborhood plans received approval from a regional planning body in early October, while a second was pushed back to this month.

The 327-acre North Stoner Prairie Neighborhood, one of two new neighborhood plans the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) is considering for Fitchburg, passed on a 9-2 vote with two commissioners absent Oct. 9. That vote was one more than the supermajority needed for the commission to recommend approval.

The neighborhood is west of Stoner Prairie Elementary School and extends to the boundary with the Town of Verona but does not include the proposed Quarry Vista development on the corner of Fitchrona and Lacy roads.

The city also gave a presentation on the Northeast Neighborhood, and a public hearing was held. But the hearing ran up to the commission's 11 p.m. deadline, pushing the vote back another month to the Nov. 13 meeting. That meeting was scheduled after the Star's deadline for the November issue.

That neighborhood covers an area around the new U.S. Hwy. 14 interchanges and has been opposed by the West Waubesa Preservation Coalition.

The city adopted the North Stoner Prairie neighborhood plan Nov. 26, 2013. Its land use recommendations call for a mix of low- and medium-density housing, industrial, business and park space.

Likely to be included in the industrial areas is an expansion of Sub Zero and Wolf Appliances, which lies just north of the neighborhood. A Sub Zero representative told the city earlier this year that the new land was necessary for the business to remain in Fitchburg.

CARPC, which advises the state on extensions of sewer service, had scheduled public hearings for the two neighborhoods at its Sept. 11 meeting, but discussion lasted so long that it was forced to add it to the October agenda as well.

Most urban development requires not only annexation but extension of sewer service into an area approved by the state Department of Natural Resources, called an urban service area. CARPC advises the DNR on USA expansions.

CARPC had been essentially the final word on those determinations until a 2010 decision on a lawsuit from the Village of Mazomanie clarified that it is only advisory to the DNR. Its decisions have sometimes been highly political, unlike its predecessor, the Dane County Regional Planning Commission.

For information on CARPC and the October meeting, visit capitalarearpc.org.

Public works

Use less salt to save money

The Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership is working with the Rock River Stormwater Group to reduce the amount of pollution making its way to our lakes and streams.

There are many things city residents can do to reduce the amount of pollutants entering the water system. Doing so can also help save money, too.

Salt and sand contribute greatly to lake and stream pollution. Once it's spread on parking lots, streets, sidewalks and driveways, it's on its way to the nearest lake or stream and cannot be recovered. Fifty pounds of salt (one large bag) can pollute 10,000 gallons of water—which is equivalent to one teaspoon in a five-gallon bucket of water.

Municipalities are working to cut salt use while still keeping streets safe. So, let's all save money this winter with these helpful tips and help the lakes and streams at the same time.

- Always use a shovel first, especially if the pavement temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or more.
- Reserve deicers for ice, not snow. Shovel as soon as possible so that wet, heavy snow doesn't have the opportunity to turn to ice.
- Various types of deicers perform differently at different temperature ranges. The most common and cheapest is sodium chloride ("rock salt"), but it doesn't work when the pavement is colder than 15°F. Magnesium chloride and calcium chloride cost more, but you'll use less and it works in colder temps.
- Measure your sidewalk and driveway so you know how much you need. A general guideline is to use

Winter driving tips

- Ice and snow, take it slow—slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering and slower braking.
 - If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal.
 - Even if you drive an SUV with four-wheel drive, you may not be able to stop any faster, or maintain control any better, once you lose traction. Four-wheel drive may get you going faster, but it won't help you stop sooner.
 - Accelerate gradually.
 - Avoid abrupt steering maneuvers.
 - Merge slowly, since sudden movements can cause your vehicle to slide.
 - Brake early, brake slowly, brake correctly, and never slam on the brakes.
 - Look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do.
- Actions by other vehicles will alert you to problems more quickly and give you that split-second of extra time to react safely.

Mailbox requirements

In order to ensure your mail is delivered on a regular basis, city plows have to get as close as possible to the mailboxes when plowing.

Mailboxes should be installed and maintained to withstand snow coming off the end of the plow.

If damage occurs due to weight of snow from snow discharge or snow storage, the city will not be responsible for repairs. If your mailbox is actually struck by a city snow plow, the city will repair or replace the mailbox, providing it's a standard design that conforms to U.S. postal specifications for minimum height and setback.

For details, visit fitchburgwi.gov

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Recycling, shred events keep waste out of landfill

The city partnered with local businesses last month to provide electronic recycling and document shredding services to residents.

Approximately 47 large recycling carts of paper, from approximately 170 different participants, were received for shredding at the 11th Shred Day Event at Oak Bank's parking lot, staffed by Pellitteri Data Destruction. The total weight received was around 8360 pounds, about 4.18 tons, and represents an equivalent savings of 71

trees.

Over 400 electronic items were turned in for recycling including 100 batteries, 25 laptop and desktop computers, 15 cell phones, and 11 printers, which were collected by Surplus-IT during the Electronics Recycling Event. Twenty-one people dropped off items.

If you missed the events, you can still arrange to drop off electronics at Surplus-IT (call 270-1100 for an appointment). You can also call Pellitteri at 257-4285 to schedule a special pick-up

for electronics to be recycled at \$25 per item.

Additional recycling options are listed in Fitchburg's Recycling Guide available at www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste.

City staff are reviewing schedules for possible repeat events during spring 2015. If you have any suggestions on timing for these events or would like to help out, please contact Felipe Avila, GIS Engineering Specialist, at felipe.avila@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4277.

SIDEWALK SHOVELERS and EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

It's that time again!!!

The Bruce Company has begun recruiting for temporary sidewalk shovelers and equipment operators **that may lead to seasonal employment in the spring.** Qualified candidates must be reliable and available at different times of the day and/or night, as positions are weather dependent and have a valid U.S. driver's license. Pay is \$16.50/hr. and employees may be eligible for end of season attendance bonus.

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File photo by Stephen Bach Photography
Two runners high-five at the Berbee Derby.

Derby: Becoming and active Thanksgiving Day tradition

Continued from page 1

and nearby states, including many who are visiting relatives for Thanksgiving, Benson said.

“You get the serious competitors and you also get the people who are like, “I just want to do something active on Thanksgiving morning,” she said.

Contestants get a free Berbee Derby long-sleeve T-shirt and a small bag with coupons and other “swag.” About 250 volunteers help with registration, parking and other logistics, Benson said.

A small change for this year’s race is that food will no longer be given to finishers. The money and time spent procuring the food and cleaning up after the race kept growing, so organizers decided the money should instead go to the

foundation, Benson said. All participants – including children – who compete on foot pay the same \$35 entry fee, though kids in strollers are free. Costumes are annually part of the fun and are encouraged.

On race day, runners line up at the starting line in “waves” assigned by the participant’s self-reported, estimated finish time. The first waves for 10K runners begin at 9 a.m., followed by 5K runners at 9:20 a.m. The 5K walk begins at 9:25 a.m.

Benson, who lives in Cottage Grove, said the run has become a tradition for many area families. Her 3- and 6-year-old children will be participating for the second year in a row.

“It’s for a great cause, and then you can feel a little less guilty about eating all that turkey dinner, you know?” she said.

Giving back

Since the first Berbee Derby in 2004, the event has raised more than \$750,000 for the Technology Education Foundation (techedfoundation.com), which offers grants to purchase new technology to local schools and organizations. Some of roughly \$75,000 in grants for 2013 included:

- \$5,000 for iPads and laptops at Stoner Prairie Elementary School
- \$3,498 for 3D software for Savanna Oaks Middle School
- \$5,000 toward iPad technology at Aldo Leopold Elementary School
- \$4,914 to purchase Kindles for the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County
- \$5,000 for iPads at Wright Middle School
- \$9,869 for an IT training program for unemployed adults at the Urban League of Greater Madison
- \$2,500 to support an engineering camp offered at Madison Children’s Museum

Annual ‘Jingle Bell Run/Walk’ aims at arthritis

SCOTT DE LARUELLE
Unified Newspaper Group

Gather your favorite costume, tie some jingle bells to your shoelaces and join in a festive, active way to start the holiday season.

The annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis provides a great way to get some exercise and help those for whom running or walking itself can be a great pain. A 5- and 10-kilometer course will be set up at Verona High School, with registration and a health fair from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and the race starting at 10:30 a.m. Post-event celebration and awards will take place at 11:15 a.m. Participation is \$35 for adults and \$25 for youths.

Fitchburg residents Gunnar Oakley and his neighbor, Dr. Stu Stitgen, are will be honorees at the Jingle Bell Run on Friday, Dec. 7 to raise money and awareness for arthritis. The beneficiary of the run, The Arthritis Foundation, has its offices in Fitchburg.

Oakley, 10, was diagnosed with arthritis two years ago. It started with a rash and sore foot and then progressed to daily fevers and increased joint pain. The arthritis has affected his knees, ankles, wrists, shoulders and back, and he takes daily shots to relieve the pain.

“Sometimes my joints hurt more than other times,” he said. “Sometimes I have to sit out of activities, but I usually just try to play football or whatever even if it hurts.”

Oakley is such a football fan that, as part of being an honoree, he attended the Sept. 27 UW football game as a guest of the team, meeting with players after Friday practice and running through the tunnel with them before Saturday’s game. One



Photo submitted
Gunnar Oakley, center, meets Wisconsin Badgers football players after their practice on Sept. 26. The Arthritis Foundation and UW Badgers arranged for the meeting, and on Sept. 27, the Oakleys were also invited to attend the football game. Oakley was able to spend time on the field with UW staff prior to the game and run through the tunnel with them as the players were introduced.

day, he said he’d like to either be a pediatric rheumatologist or work with an NFL team as a coach or a health trainer.

Looking forward to the Jingle Bell run, Oakley has participated in the event as a captain of a team since he was diagnosed, and is excited to be back.

“It helps me make people aware that kids get arthritis, too,” he said. “It’s worth finding a cure for it, because someone you know has it, and arthritis hurts.”

Stitgen, an orthopedic surgeon whose aunt suffered from “terrible” rheumatoid arthritis that hampered her talents as a pianist and church organist,



Stitgen



Oakley

If you go

What: Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis
When: 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 7
Where: Verona Area High School, 300 Richard St.
FMI: Call Megan Cooley at 221-9800 or email mcooley@arthritis.org



Photo submitted

said arthritis is something doctors are seeing more of as the population ages. There is good news, however. He said a “new generation” of medications will help bring relief to some patients without the use of surgery, and those who do need surgery will have much more “robust” materials than in the past, reducing the need for joint reconstruction.

He said it was a “natural fit” to be paired with Oakley, a classmate of his son who lives nearby. He

Gunnar Oakley wrote a thank you letter to the Badgers football players after his visit with them.

said he’s looking forward to working with a “great cause” like the Jingle Bell run.

“I enjoy the camaraderie of being around a group of people all interested in accomplishing the same thing – curing arthritis,” Stitgen said.



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Photos by Samantha Christian

Kip Spaude demonstrates a machine at the Saris factory that makes sure wheels are perfectly round.

Saris: Company embraces changing consumers

Continued from page 1

leaders said, such as making the Saris brand resonate with consumers.

The company is making an impact close to home through philanthropic initiatives and its use of local materials. Using its longstanding design principles, it's creating a future in which there's virtually no barrier between looking at a product and knowing how to use it.

"Today we're all about what's next," said Saris president Chris Fortune. "How do we innovate and get separation in the marketplace? 'Made in Fitchburg' and 'Made in the U.S.' is a part of what we're all about."

Broadening horizons

Saris started in 1989 when Fortune and his wife Sara bought Graber, a Madison-based manufacturer of bike racks for vehicles. The married couple set out to rebrand the company, starting with its name – an amalgam of Sara and Chris.

At the time, Graber had been in business for 15 years and had 24 employees. Six of them still work at Saris.

Fortune said Graber had well-engineered products and a solid reputation but was a "fast follower" focused more on cost control than ingenuity. Saris, he said, is more forward-thinking.

For example, they quickly discovered that racks are a seasonal business, with the bulk of retail sales happening between Easter and Independence Day.

"It was difficult to run a profitable business with that seasonality," Fortune said. "We were highly motivated to find something counter-seasonal to the rack business."

It found a good match in CylceOps, which makes trainers and training cycles ideal for cold-weather months. Saris bought the company in 1999 out of a New York bankruptcy court.

Two years later, Saris struck a deal with Tune, a Massachusetts-based cycling upstart, to acquire its PowerTap technology. The technology involves using small machines called power meters to measure power output.

Saris continues to sell training equipment and power meters under the CycleOps and PowerTap brands (see sidebar).

Changing consumer landscape

Saris products are sold online and at brick-and-mortar retailers like Erik's Bike Shop and Trek Bicycle Store (Trek is its largest U.S. distributor).

They're also for sale in over 60 countries worldwide. Fortune said 30 percent of revenues come from outside the United States.

Fortune declined to say how much of his company's revenues come through



Above, Lee Thao, left, and Iris Carrillo, right, assemble "The Hottie" bicycle rack at Saris. While most people are familiar with the bike racks, Saris has several lines of bicyclist-friendly equipment.

Left, Chris Fortune is the president of Saris. He and his wife, Sara, bought Graber in 1989 and renamed it as an amalgam of their names.

online sales, though he did allow that "consumers are changing where they're buying." He said it's important that customers pay the same price for an item regardless of how they buy it.

"If it isn't the same price, you lose brand value," Fortune said. "You embarrass your retailer by not being able to manage your pricing and you get punished as a supplier. People want to know they're not going to have a customer come in and say, 'hey, George's bike shop, you just screwed me. I can buy it online for 20 percent less.' We don't want to do that. That's not right."

And to Fortune, and his company, brand value matters. He said understanding the preferences of today's consumers, especially those ages 20 to 35 – the so-called Millennial generation – will be a key to future success.

"It's fascinating how Millennials are looking at life through a different lens," Fortune said. "They live in cities, so they drive less and bike more."

To court young consumers, Fortune said, companies must actively tend to their images. He said young people today don't want to be sold to. They'd rather use online tools to learn, participate and ultimately target brands that appeal to them. He said in the past Saris didn't promote itself enough but that employees' efforts in the community make up some of the lost ground.

"We haven't really been out there telling our story as much as we need to," Fortune said. "Fortunately we have a long history of giving back, both on the cycling side and the nonprofit side."

Last month's Saris Gala is one example. The event, which the company said is the country's biggest single-night fundraiser for bike advocacy, netted over \$109,000 for the Wisconsin Bike Federation.

Attendees donned everything from stilettos and gowns to kilts and bike shoes. The event has become more popular in its 11 years of existence. This year's Gala was the first held away from Saris headquarters, at the Madison Children's Museum.

Saris also thinks local, with vendors from within 300 miles supplying 70 percent of materials, Fortune said. That includes injection-molded parts from Oconomowoc Tooling and tubing from National Metalwares, based in Aurora, Ill.

And if the Cycle Guide Lights pilot is any indication, it will use its hometown as a testing ground. The company said a path with the lights installed "simply lights up when it gets dark" and the lights will last one year under a snow drift and 4,000 hours between charges.

For those who ride in darkness, and the company that helps them do so, the path ahead is bright.



Photo courtesy Saris.com

The Bones rack is Saris' signature product.

The Saris signature: racks

The Bones trunk rack exemplifies Saris' philosophy that design should be intuitive. The rack has arms that rotate around a splined axle that is hollow (hence the name). The arms hold bikes on one side and attach to the bumper and windshield on the other. Fabric straps fasten to the trunk, adding stability.

Saris president Chris Fortune said someone can look at the rack and understand instinctively how it works.

"The moving parts are highlighted to signify action," Fortune said. "It's totally exposed, like a building block. There's nothing hidden."

Over 1 million Bones racks have been sold, the company said. Fortune called it the signature Saris product.

One drawback of the Bones and other racks that strap to the backs of vehicles is lack of trunk access. Fortune said that the company did wind tunnel testing and found that a car with a bike on the roof is 30 percent less aerodynamic, and therefore fuel efficient, than one with a bike on the rear. He added that bikes and bike racks are easier to get on and off the back of a car than the roof.



Photo by Samantha Christian

The PowerTap helps riders see how they performed on a ride.

High tech gadgets: CycleOps and PowerTap

CycleOps, a brand within Saris Cycling Group (SCG), makes trainers and training cycles that provide resistance when a user pedals. A trainer hooks up to a bike wheel and supplies resistance. A training cycle, by contrast, is more like the stationary bikes at most gyms. It not only has equipment to create resistance but also handlebars, pedals, a seat and everything else needed to ride inside.

Bill Shager, Saris' executive vice president, said training cycles have become increasingly sophisticated. One electronic model the company makes allows users to select from pre-programmed rides, such as a grueling Tour de France mountain stage. Or, he said, someone from a neighboring state who will be competing in the Ironman triathlon here can learn every turn and hill on the bike course without setting foot in Wisconsin.

Another SCG brand is PowerTap, maker of power meters, small electronic devices to measure power output. Riders can in turn upload their power data to a computer and analyze how they performed on different sections of a ride.

Power meters can go in different places on a bike, such as the crank or the cleat of a shoe. The ones Saris makes, which are still sold under the PowerTap name, go in the hub of a wheel. Fortune said Saris is "the exclusive supplier of the hub solution."

Gorsuch receives Lifetime Service Award from state bankers' trade association

Robert Gorsuch, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Oak Bank, Fitchburg, received a Lifetime Service Award from the Community Bankers of Wisconsin at the trade association's annual meeting in Wisconsin Dells in September.

This year's awards honored a total of 25 individuals who have dedicated over 30, 40 or even 50 years to serving their banks, their customers and their community. Recipients were chosen based on their commitment to the industry and service to their customers and community as well as their positive attitude and personality.

Gorsuch's banking career spans five decades. A graduate of Northern Michigan University in accounting and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he began his banking career with First National Bank & Trust in Marquette, Mich., while still in college. A little over a decade later he joined Park Bank in Madison where he served 25 years before opening the de novo Oak Bank in Fitchburg.

He is the longest serving bank president in both Madison and Fitchburg.

In addition to his work with the Community Bankers of Wisconsin where he received the Outstanding



Gorsuch

Community Banker of the Year award and served as the organization's chairman, Gorsuch has been honored with

a Lifetime Achievement Award in Philanthropy from the Association of Fundraising Professionals and has been named 2004 Executive of the Year from the Madison Sales and Marketing Association.

In honor of his oldest grandson who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when he was eight years old, Gorsuch has participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Ride to Cure Diabetes for the past seven years.

Gorsuch has also been a 42-year member of the Shriners International and served as past chairman of the board of the Zor Shriners.

Oak Bank has one location in Fitchburg.

Community Bankers of Wisconsin, founded in 1981, represents 200 Wisconsin community banks with approximately 900 banking offices located in small towns, rural areas, suburbs and cities.

In brief

Davenport named top lawyer

Foley and Lardner, LLP is pleased to announce that Gordon Davenport III of Fitchburg has been recognized in The Best Lawyers in America guide for 2015.

Davenport specializes in commercial litigation and insurance law.

The Best Lawyers in America guide is based on peer-reviewed surveys in which attorneys cast votes on the legal abilities of other lawyers in their practice areas.

Foley and Lardner, LLP has approximately 900 attorneys in 21 offices providing winning business and legal insight to clients across the country. Foley has Wisconsin offices in Madison and Milwaukee.

UPS store celebrates 20 years

The UPS Store in Fitchburg is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The store – 2935 S. Fish Hatchery Road – offers printing, packaging and shipping services.

For details, visit fitchburg-wi-2831.theupsstore-local.com or call 288-0957.

O'Shea joins Park Bank

Brendon O'Shea has joined Park Bank as a Mortgage Advisor at the Fitchburg branch located at 2693 Research Park Drive.

O'Shea brings to Park Bank nearly 10 years of banking and mortgage lending experience in helping clients into homeownership.

Akamai Investment Advisors opens

Akamai Investment Advisors opened late last month with an office on Triverton Pike Drive.

Akamai is a Hawaiian word meaning knowledgeable, clever, expert, intelligent, smart and witty, according to the firm's website.

Find out more about the financial planning and

investment advisory firm by visiting akamaiadvisors.net or calling 729-3874.

Park Bank adds three new board members

Chad Armstrong, Andrew (Drew) Petersen and Paul Senty were announced as new additions to the bank's board of directors earlier this fall.

Armstrong has a long career with Preferred Title, which is a full service title company for both residential and commercial real estate transactions.

Petersen brings to the Park Bank Board over 20

years of experience in government relations and corporate communications. Petersen has been with TDS Telecommunications since 1997 and currently serves as the Vice President of External Affairs and Communications for this billion dollar company.

With over 17 years of experience in banking, Senty is executive vice president and general counsel at Park Bank. Senty is also one of the local owners of Park Bank, and holds a law degree from Marquette Law School.



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